Jolie Harrison
Chief, Permits and Conservation Division
Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to development of the Maryland Offshore Wind Project offshore Maryland in the BOEM Commercial Lease on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS–A 0490); Docket No. 2023–09194.

Submitted via email

Dear Ms. Harrison,

The West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group (WCP) is composed of fishermen and processors with operations in California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. We are a relatively small organization focused largely on the role the fishing industry can serve with the science community on coastal pelagic species. WCP's primary mission is a collaborative survey with the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) utilizing an industry fishing vessel and a NOAA research vessel. Our membership collectively catches, processes, and markets every major species on the west coast and employees over four thousand and services over one thousand fishing vessels. We are members of the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance. (RODA)

While WCP does not fully understand the interaction and regulatory process in the supporting documents surrounding the ***Taking (of) Marine Mammals Incidental to development of the Maryland Offshore Wind Project offshore Maryland in the BOEM Commercial Lease on the Outer Continental Shelf (MD OSW Take)*** we are familiar with marine mammal interactions and the avoidance regulations and protections afforded for these animals under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and/or the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Our members work hard and diligently to avoid interactions with marine mammals and other protected species and are under strict take limits and the laser focus by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and other agencies enforcement departments. This has cost our industry millions of dollars in lost opportunity revenue and fuel, but the law is the law and should be enforced equally regardless of the individual, the industry, or the agencies involved. In this the NEPA process and the listed statutory protections for marine mammals and/or ESA fauna should be administered fairly,

equally, and without bias.

The WCP herein supports and incorporates by reference three documents related to the MD OSW Take proposed action.

1. The RODA comments on the MD OSW Take Action-Docket No. 2023–09194. Mr. Conroy, executive director for RODA Pacific and RODA staff have put together a cogent and comprehensive document that everyone should review. It goes into many areas of concern on the execution of the proposal for marine mammal protections for MD OSW Take that are outlined in the NOAA document. These are frankly inadequate and incomplete in their coverage.
2. Mr. Larry Thevik's 02/06/2023 comments from the Washington Dungeness Crab Fishermen's Association, *Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the Revolution Wind Offshore Wind Farm Project Offshore Rhode Island (87 Fed. Reg. 79,072, December 23, 2022*. Submitted via www.regulations.gov at NOAA–NMFS–2022–0127 as regards incidental takes of marine mammals. Mr. Thevik has a great deal of experience with whale interaction in fisheries, including policies and regulation, on the west coast. As he states, what steps are taken on the east coast will likely follow on the west coast.
3. Two Tribal documents:
    a. **N A T I O N A L C O N G R E S S O F A M E R I C A N I N D I A N S:**

" *BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI strongly urges the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to* ***halt all scoping and permitting for offshore wind projects*** *until completion of a comprehensive and transparent procedure adequately protecting tribal environmental and sovereign interests is developed and implemented…." (February 20-23,2023)*

b. Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States,

2023 Midyear Convention Worley, Idaho RESOLUTION #2023 – 39

"Immediate Action To Develop A Comprehensive And Transparent Procedure for Offshore Wind Project Permitting To Adequately Protect Tribal Environmental And Sovereign Interests."

WHEREAS, currently, the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) have not provided adequate opportunities for tribal consultation or addressed our concerns regarding the potential impacts of offshore wind projects. This lack of consultation and transparency violates our inherent sovereign rights and responsibilities; now

"BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, until this procedure is developed and implemented, ***we request that all scoping and permitting for offshore wind projects be halted****. We cannot afford to sacrifice our cultural and natural resources for the sake of renewable energy without ensuring that our sovereign interests are protected." (May 11, 2023)*

(WCP note: Pacific Whiting and sardines are two species that historically spawn off central and southern California and later find their way north into the U&A's of four NW Washington tribes as young adult fish.)

WCP Strongly supports the recommendations of these tribal organizations to halt the scoping and permitting further authorizing OSW. We further state that all phases of Offshore Wind Energy development (OSW) should be halted. This is particularly relevant to the MD OSW Take proposal. We

have not researched the associated NOAA MD OSW Take documentation as well as RODA, but we have long observed that BOEM and their support agencies' rush actions to lease, site, and construct wind farms, and concluded that this is a symptom of a flawed process. The OSW venture writ large has not planned or taken into consideration actions that capture true cost of OSW electricity to the consumer, realistic impacts to fishing communities. Nor has BOEM objectively assessed the lost value for the destruction of US fisheries, environment, habitat, and ecological impacts to the ocean and its marine life systems, or have they evaluated undersized transmission systems and other infrastructure, and the net contribution of the US OSW blueprint to combat climate change. This while most of the world is going forward with the establishment of massive fossil fuel electrical generation plants to compete economically with the US. We support renewable energy that is reliable and does not eliminate major sources of food production, minimizes use of natural resources to produce generation, and that we are certain will not have catastrophic effect on near pristine environments. We do not believe OSW matches up well for any of those objectives.

In direct support of the RODA comments on this topic we chose to focus on three important areas that RODA has covered.

First, is the recent increase in whale mortality events that were concurrent with OSW site survey work in the area. Fishermen, their organizations, and NGO's have pointed out NOAA fisheries astigmatism. The agency maintains it was an increase in vessel traffic or climate change that caused the whales' deaths. They are leaving out the most important point. You cannot determine if the causation was related to the whales' diminished ability to determine its location due to acoustic damage to its echolocation systems without doing necropsies. To not administer necropsies and blithely going forward is a negligent non-action and leaves the question dangling as to whether OSW related surveys are harmful to these protected species. As there likely will be ESA North Atlantic Right Whales (NARW) intersecting these MD OSW Take survey areas this is critical knowledge as to number of "A" takes and the relational damage to the population dynamics of all ESA listed species.

Second: RODA comments point out that there will be 634,345 estimated marine mammal Level B harassments. Frankly this seems to be an insane amount of interaction. 912 of these are predicted to be NARW Level B harassments but not any Level A takes are asked for. WCP members find this difficult to believe. The danger of losing one NARW is too great to not have some insurance policy for the siting and construction phases. Independent observers on all operational vessels might be one option to consider if it is not already mandated. Shutting down operations when they are in proximity to the survey vessels or construction vessels could be another. This is mandated for fishermen on the west coast when whales are seen in areas where crab traps are located, or longlining occurs.

Third: Understanding cumulative impacts to our fisheries, coastal community economies, our marine ecosystems is essential to understanding the totality if economic and ecological impacts under OSW if it adheres to the 2050 goals. For BOEM to reject cumulative impacts studies is more than incompetance. It is malfeasance.

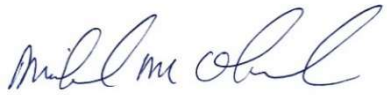
In conclusion we believe there are enough red lights blinking to halt all OSW projects under way and to go through a top to bottom OSW review to realize the full benefits of OSW versus the downside of setting

out with little planning other than “get it done so we can save the planet” instructions. More people are waking up to the facts and misinformation surrounding the OSW proposition. Until recently has been dismissed only as hyperbole. This is not the case, however. The people who have studied this in any depth are realizing that as presently structured this will offer little if anything to combat climate change while running up a price tag of trillions that US taxpayers will have to pay. There are less costly and less complicated ways to effectively fight climate change without damaging one of the most pristine regions on the planet. This can be done and still sustainably feed the world far into the future if we only use some common sense and good science.

It is time to do as many of the tribes have petitioned. Halt the OSW process and reevaluate what we are doing to our marine environment and the 80 plus billion dollars of annual economic activity founded on US non-imported seafood which supports over 500,000 jobs[1].

Our last remark: NOAA fisheries role is to ensure the protection of our marine resources without bias and while executing social justice. This should be applied equally to all parties and industries. To do otherwise is a political travesty.

Thank you,
Respectfully.



Mike Okoniewski
Secretary of West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group
Mokoniewski.consultant@pacificseafood.com
Ph: 360-619-2019

C.c. Greg Shaughnessy, COO Ocean Gold Seafoods
Vice-President of West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group
gshaughnessy@oceancos.com;
360-310-0662

[1] Fishery Economics of the United States 2020. https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/sustainable-fisheries/fisheries-economics-united-states

To: Jolie Harrison, Chief Permits and Conservation Division
Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service

From: Sherri Lange
CEO North American Platform Against Wind Power
Founding Member Great Lakes Wind Truth, USA and Canada
Vice President Save the Eagles International, Canada
www.na-paw.org
www.greatlakeswindtruth.org

Chief Jolie Harrison
ITP.taylor@noaa.gov

C.c. kimberly.damon-randall@noaa.gov Director NOAA Fisheries Office of Protected Resources
C.c. catherine.marzin@noaa.gov Deputy Director NOAA Office of Protected Resources
C.c. Interested parties, CFACT, Eric Rosenbloom, David Stevenson, David Wojick
crucker@cfact.org, eric@kirbymountain.com, Davidstevenson1948@gmail.com, dwojick@craigellachie.us

May 31, 2023

Dear Chief Jolie Harrison:

Please accept our comments (Second set of comments)

NMFS notice of US Wind LOA at https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/05/02/2023-09194/taking-and-importingmarine-mammals-taking-marine-mammals-incidental-to-construction-of-the-maryland Taking and Importing Marine Mammals;

Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Construction of the Maryland Offshore Wind Project Offshore of Maryland

We respectfully comment:

The notes taken by CFACT are in tune with our observations. They have made key notes around mitigation, comprehensive and operational, and we note and concur, there is a rather lame tumbleweed of misunderstanding and current information which is sadly lacking in accuracy or depth: they have commented also about harassment, which in itself linguistically points to a watering down of the real time and certain impacts, already accruing as you note: they also comment on the "listed science," which as referenced needs to be thoroughly and competently examined, commented on and studied further.

The **international study** of marine life deaths related to offshore wind is nearly always listing "paucity" of information, and the need for additional research. Timelines must be redrawn, and indeed, the applications must be halted and a fresh look at all international experience and warnings could be noted. At the same time, it is noted that offshore wind experiences include mention of alarm at high levels, unanticipated levels, of marine life deaths, and also bird and bat mortality. It is time we learn from examples of mounting deaths: note this one from seven

years ago in CA.

'A deaf whale is a dead whale': US navy sonars could be cause of strandings

This article is more than 7 years old

Marine researchers speculate noise pollution in the Pacific is disrupting whales' vital abilities to hear and migrate – and driving them ashore at an alarming rate

Six whales have washed ashore in northern California in the past two months. Photograph: Fabrice Guerin / Barcroft Media

> *Moe Flannery, a stranded marine mammal responder and manager of the CAS Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy, declined to give a cause of death shortly after conducting the necropsy on the first Pacifica whale. But she did say the whale showed signs of muscle hemorrhaging, an injury which research has shown to be consistent with sonar-related deaths.*

According to the NRDC, a non-profit that seeks to protect wildlife, sonar can be devastating to whales and other marine animals that rely largely on hearing to complete daily functions, including orientation and communication. Without the ability to hear, it is difficult for whales to "find their way through the world every day", the organization says in a fact sheet.

In March, a US district court in Hawaii found that the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) improperly gave approval to the navy's use of sonar in the Pacific, an issue

long-contested by environmental groups that allege sonar is causing damage to marine animals' migration patterns, feeding locations, breeding and ability to hear and communicate. The navy uses sonar for training, to simulate real-life situations in the ocean. Thousands of sonar devices remain in the coastal waters of the Pacific as Earthjustice and other environmental organizations negotiate with the navy on how and where it should use sonar for drills.

It is very clear that sonar testing is at all time highs on the Eastern Seaboard. Hard to imagine the spate of "unusual" deaths is not related. Similar examples of whale and sea and wildlife mortality are eerily similar, and we must listen to examples of this world wide.

Also from the same article:

In a May 2012 report on sonar use, the navy said acoustic sources and sonar more than 2.5 million times annually exposed marine animals to sounds considered "disturbing", while around 500 times a year marine animals were exposed to sound levels that were considered to result in injury.

At question also, is the basic premise for testing, and dangerous acoustic sound loading of dangerous levels for these animals, which is that wind turbines will mitigate CO2 and somehow contribute to saving the planet. Nothing can be further from the truth. C02 is not a pollutant. It is not dangerously clouding the earth with danger, and it is indeed solar impulse and perhaps 50 other natural forces that will or may impact the 'weather.' Many agree that we are now entering a phase of cooling, not warming, and that proposed anthropogenic causations are truly passé. At any rate, whatever your belief system, building massive, expensive, oil driven, created, and maintained wind turbines, killing fields, will only serve to be industrial aberrations, death traps. Look to the first offshore disaster, Block Island, to see the pitfalls and cost. One turbine was shut down due to a drill bit left inside a generator, and lifting cables required the entire shutdown of all five turbines, at an additional cost of upwards of $100 million. Total cost to date: upwards of $300 million and counting. Some say upwards of billions.

Offshore wind turbines are subsidy driven (all are subsidy driven), as one puts it, a licence to print money. This industry caters to European builders and the entire building process will create negative impacts to the US economy. In our view, NOAA and NMFS need to pull back their "Political" vision, see what the impetus for this frenzy is, contributing to a hasty and

unruly proliferation of not just turbines, but also networks of cabling, and substations, often with little thought and planning: these will pollute offshore, and near shore and ON shore. They even more unfortunately will not be discerning, and will create vast areas of kill fields, unknown to us at this time, but yes, inevitable.

Let's not repeat the offshore misery of Europe. Professor and researcher Joseph Lloret (Spain) deeply urges his audiences to heed that areas of high density biodiversity and critical habitat may be, WILL be, irreparably impacted, to avoid those, and if advancing, prepare for "serious environmental risks."

We similarly urge you to halt all testing, permitting, and advancement, because it is clear we are on a path that will prove, is proving, disastrous.

Thank you sincerely for your consideration.

Sherri Lange

NA PAW

Caesar Rodney Institute
Center for Energy & Environment
PO Box 18
Lewes, DE 19958
WWW.CaesarRodney.org

Jolie Harrison, Chief Permits & Conservation Division
Office of Protective Resources, NMFS
1315 East-west Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

June 1, 2023

Sent by e-mail

Public Comments on US Wind Application for Letter of Authorization under the Marine Mammal Protection Act for the Maryland Offshore Wind Project in Document 2023-09194

These comments represent the views of the cosigners of the document representing thousands of individuals.

As stated in the Federal register, "An incidental take authorization shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth. NMFS has defined "negligible impact" in 50 CFR 216.103 as an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival. the MMPA defines "harassment" as: any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance, which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (Level A harassment); or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (Level B harassment)".

By these measures US Wind has failed to meet these standards especially for the Critically Endangered North Atlantic right whale (NARW) and their application should be rejected for the following reasons:

- NMFS has established no standards for determining maximum estimated marine mammal abundances allowed in a month when construction will occur
- NMFS has not established what version of estimated population abundances should be used
- NMFS has not established the current abundance of NARWs
- No LOA should be issued until at least one of the planned 18 MW turbines is actually built in the ocean with sound levels measured and reported accurately
- No project should receive a LOA until this cumulative effect is fully considered
- The projects have not been approved yet, or completed the Environmental Impact Statement Process
- With no impact from the US Wind project, expected NARW deaths already exceed the level needed to maintain NARW stock. NMFS should not be approving any offshore wind activity that may further impact the NARW.

Caesar Rodney Institute
Center for Energy & Environment
PO Box 18
Lewes, DE 19958
WWW.CaesarRodney.org

NMFS/NOAA allows applicants to determine protected mammal abundance in an arbitrary and capricious manner

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) along with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) have issued numerous Letters of Authorization (LOA) for incidental take of marine mammals by offshore wind development companies consulting with the applicants during the application and approval process. The agencies have established take limits using species stock estimates and expected species densities in subject lease areas in an arbitrary and capricious manner. Consider two recent LOAs to the current Maryland Offshore Wind Project application in the Table below.

Table 1: Recent five year Incidental Take requests for the North Atlantic Right Whale (NARW)

Variable	Vineyard Wind	Ocean Wind 1	Coastal Virginia	Marwin/ Momentum Wind
LOA Date	5/1/2023	11/25/2022	Current	Current
NARW Take Request	20	14	23	6
NARW Population Estimate	394	368	346	338
Maximum Estimated NARW Presence Month Construction Allowed	June	December	May	November
Maximum Estimated NARW Presence/100KM^2 during construction	0.308	0.045	0.015	0.011
Maximum presence during construction compared to Marwin/Momentum Wind	28 X	4 X	1.4 X	-
Estimated Presence Version Used	2017	2022	2022	2022

Source of population density: Roberts and Halpin, Duke University, the Northeast Regional Planning Body, the University of North Carolina Wilmington, the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center, and NOAA Habitat-based Marine Mammal Density Models for the U.S. Atlantic: Latest Versions (duke.edu)

The agencies have approved recent projects without establishing a maximum allowed monthly estimated density of critically endangered NARW in the months construction is allowed. Allowed densities vary by a 28 fold difference, and there is no standard for the version of the source data used. This application gives an estimate of NARW population as 338 animals but each of the other projects uses a higher and different estimate from 346 to 394 animals. NMFS/NOAA should establish a NARW population number to be used in all applications, and a maximum allowed estimated population density for the months construction is allowed. No LOAs should be issued until these standards are met.

NMFSs' consideration of incidental take during wind turbine operation is insufficient

During construction dozens of mitigation steps are required to protect NARWs. The US Wind application allowing incidental take covers the period from January, 2025, through December, 2029, with construction completed by 2027 with partial operation as soon as 2025. This means the application will also cover incidental take during operation of the wind turbines. As a critically endangered species, the impacts

on the NARW are of greatest concern. There are several potential impacts on the whales from high noise levels during construction:

1) Exposure of marine mammals to sound sources can result in, but is not limited to, no response or any of the following observable responses: increased alertness; orientation or attraction to a sound source; vocal modifications; cessation of feeding; cessation of social interaction; alteration of movement or diving behavior; habitat abandonment (temporary or permanent); and in severe cases, panic, flight, stampede, or stranding, potentially resulting in death
2) Avoidance is the displacement of an individual from an area or migration path as a result of the presence of a sound or other stressors and is one of the most obvious manifestations of disturbance in marine mammals. NARW tend to swim and feed near the water surface where zooplankton is abundant, putting them at increased risk of vessel collision (Mayo and Marx 1990; Baumgartner, M.F., et al. 2017; Parks et al. 2012). There is a high potential of vessel strikes as whales avoid noise harassment by leaving or avoiding a lease area and head into high traffic shipping lanes. See the map below showing the shipping lane abutting the project

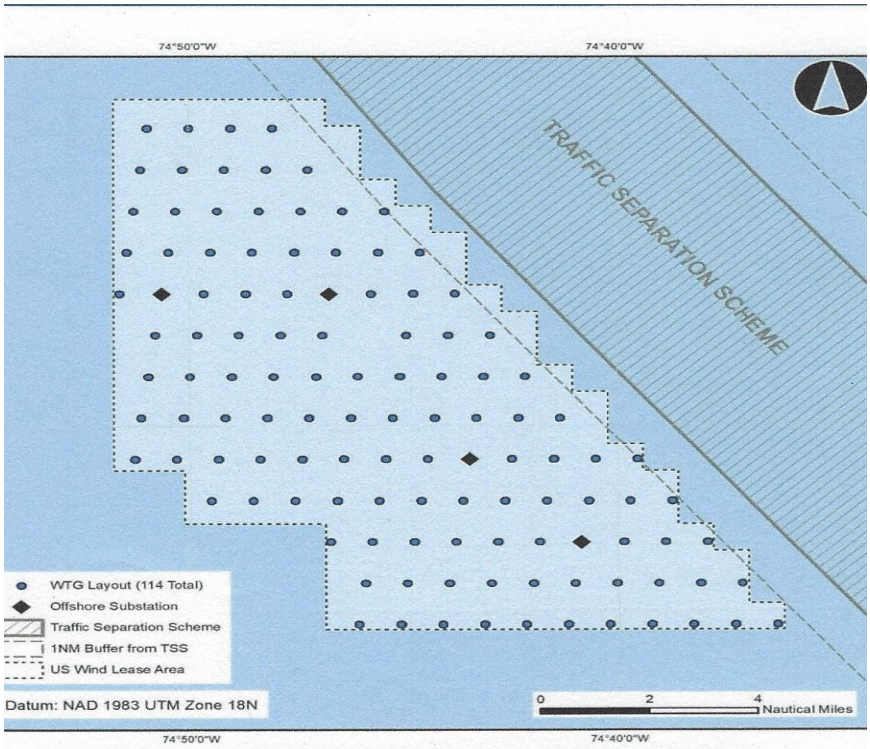


Figure 2-3. Proposed Layout with 1 NM TSS Setback

3) Behavioral change, such as disturbance manifesting in lost foraging time, in response to anthropogenic activities is often assumed to indicate a biologically significant effect on a population of concern. Five out of six North Atlantic right whales exposed to an acoustic alarm interrupted their foraging dives (Nowacek *et al.,* 2004).
4) Sound can disrupt behavior through masking, or interfering with, an animal's ability to detect, recognize, or discriminate between acoustic signals of interest. North Atlantic right whales have been observed to shift the frequency content of their calls upward while reducing the rate of calling in areas of increased anthropogenic noise (Parks *et al.,* 2007)
5) Sound can induce stress. Rolland *et al.* (2012) found that noise reduction from reduced ship traffic in the Bay of Fundy was associated with decreased stress in North Atlantic right whales. Correspondingly, increased noise levels can be expected to increase stress diverting energy from other functions
6) Sound may affect marine mammals through impacts on the abundance, behavior, or distribution of prey species (e.g., crustaceans, cephalopods, fish, and zooplankton). The presence and operation of structures such as wind turbines are, in general, likely to result in local and broader oceanographic effects in the marine environment and may disrupt marine mammal prey, such as dense aggregations and distribution of zooplankton.
7) Vessel collisions with marine mammals, also referred to as vessel strikes or ship strikes, can result in death or serious injury of the animal. Wounds resulting from ship strike may include massive trauma, hemorrhaging, broken bones, or propeller lacerations. US Wind expects at least 823 vessel trips/year during operation.

US Wind did not request and NMFS is not proposing to authorize take incidental to operation noise. The same potential harmful impacts described above during construction could exist during operation with the primary difference operational noise will be nearly continuous for decades. No turbines approaching the size of the up to 18 megawatt turbines planned for this project have been built in the ocean anywhere on the globe. A study by Stöber and Thomsen (2021) estimated the operational noise from the larger, more recent generation of direct-drive wind turbines. Their findings demonstrated noise levels could be up to 170 to 177 dB for a 10 megawatt turbine. Furthermore, noise levels where likely to diminish to NOAA Level B harassment levels of 120 dB at about 0.9 miles away from the turbine. Since planned turbine spacing is only on a 0.9 by 1.2 mile grid, noise levels will likely significantly exceed Level B harassment limits throughout the project area and for one mile beyond the project area. (Journal of the Acoustical Society, "How could operational underwater sound from future offshore wind turbines impact marine life?", Uwe Stöber *and* Frank Thomsen, https://asa.scitation.org/doi/abs/10.1121/10.0003760?journalCode=jas)

In addition to the above mentioned concerns, the US Wind application states "NARW's require extremely dense patches of zooplankton to feed efficiently". Also stated is the fact average length of NARWs has decreased 7.3% over the period 1981-2019. Smaller size can impact breeding and nursing. Broad scale hydrodynamic impacts could alter zooplankton distribution and abundance by greater mixing (van Berkel et al. 2020). US Wind admits in their application, "If the presence of Project structures causes a

change in ocean circulation, it may cause marine mammals to shift their foraging grounds to account for shifting distributions of prey species." We join in recent statements from lead biologists at the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) who have recommended that offshore wind energy projects be pushed back a minimum of 20 kilometers from areas used by NARW for feeding and other life history activities. This recommendation was set forth in a letter from NMFS to BOEM, dated May 13, 2022, Sean Hayes, chief of the protected species branch at NOAA's National Northeast Fisheries Science Center.

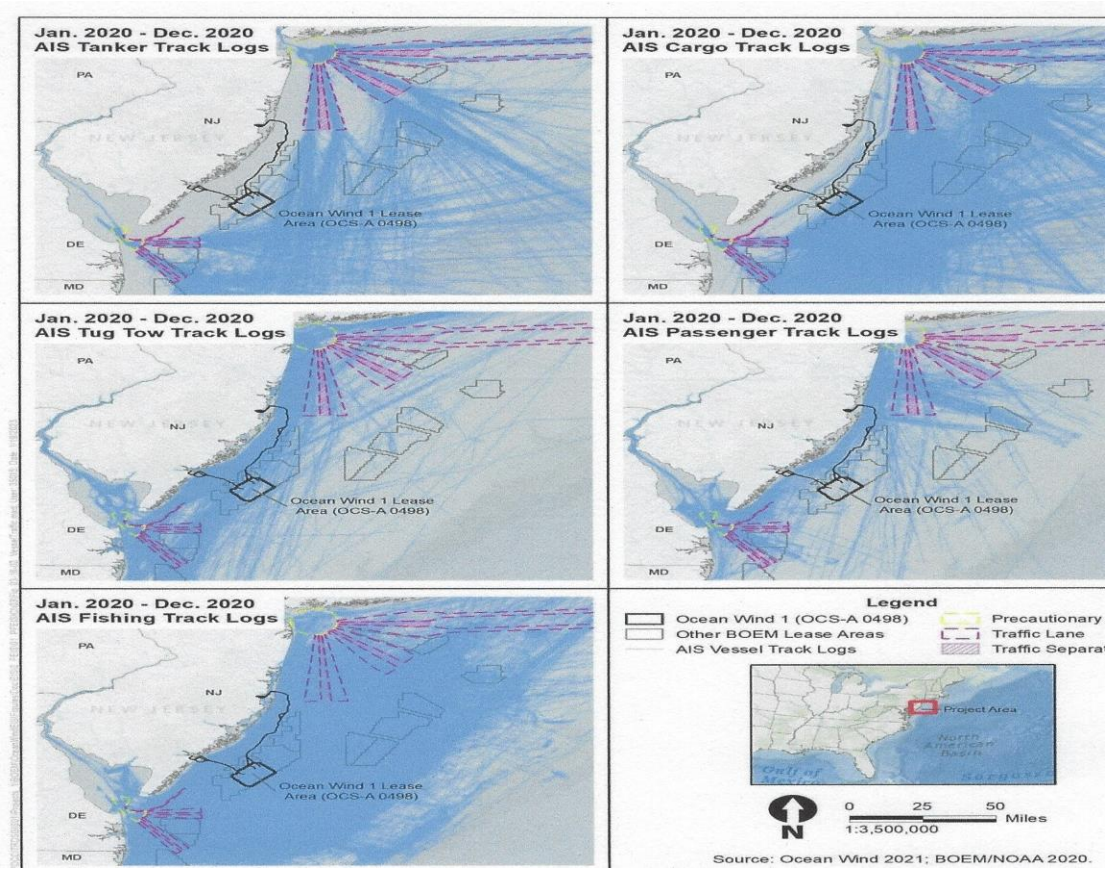
As reported in the application, "Abundance estimates, Potential Biological Removal (PBR) values, and Annual Mortality/Serious Injury (M/SI) values were sourced from the most recent NOAA Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Report issued for each species and stock (88 FR 4162, Hayes et al. 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019; Waring et al. 2015). PBR is defined by the MMPA as the maximum number of animals, not including natural mortalities, that may be removed from a marine mammal stock while allowing that stock to reach or maintain its optimum sustainable population. Annual M/SI values represent annual levels of human-caused mortality plus serious injury from all sources combined (e.g., commercial fisheries, ship strike)." The NARW PBR estimate given in Table 3.1 is 0.7 while the M/SI value is 8.1. NARW are currently experiencing an unusual mortality event (UME); elevated numbers of dead or seriously injured NARW have been recorded in Canada and the United States since 2017 (NOAA Fisheries 2023a). Throughout this time period, 35 NARW deaths have been reported, as well as 22 serious injuries, and 37 sub-lethal injuries and illnesses (NOAA Fisheries 2023a). In the period of 2016-2020, incidental fishery entanglement mortality and serious injury averaged 5.7 individuals per year, and vessel strike mortality and serious injury averaged 2.4 individuals per year (88 FR 4162). This means, with no impact from the US Wind project, expected NARW deaths already exceed the level needed to maintain NARW stock. NMFS should not be approving any offshore wind activity that may further impact the NARW.

Clearly, operational noise poses a serious, and even potentially deadly threat and could result in NARW extinctions. No LOA should be issued until at least one of the planned 18 MW turbines is actually built in the ocean with sound levels measured and reported accurately. Building the project with sound measured only after project is built is unacceptable.

NMFS has failed to consider the cumulative impact from the numerous LOAs issued in active NARW habitat

The Harassment Permit analysis does not assess *cumulative* impacts on the affected marine mammals. Instead, it treats the Project as if it were to be installed and operated in a vacuum, where no other impacts exists. In reality the project is adjacent to the Skipjack 1 and 2 Projects, and the Garden State project, and not far from multiple projects off the southern New Jersey coast. All of these projects may be simultaneously be under construction, and will certainly be operational at the same time. Marine mammals avoiding the Marwin and Momentum Wind projects may simply wander into another project and across multiple shipping channels adding to stress and confusion greatly increasing the potential for vessel strikes and entanglement. See the below maps of vessel paths to the north of the Maryland project. NMFS is ignoring this issue. No project should receive a LOA until this cumulative effect is fully considered.

Caesar Rodney Institute
Center for Energy & Environment
PO Box 18
Lewes, DE 19958
WWW.CaesarRodney.org



Conclusion

The US Wind request for a LOA, and NMFS consultation on the request is seriously flawed and incomplete. The request should be denied.

David T. Stevenson
Director, Center for Energy & Environment
Caesar Rodney Institute

Roy Zatcoff
President
Sea Colony Rec Association

Alan Talpalar
President
The Preserve HOA

Hunt Shipman
President
King's Grant Condominium Association

Thomas Berray
Karen Law
Charles Dougherty
James MacMichael

Margaret Berray
Mariane Law
Jim Bigart
Shannon MacMichael

David Pierce
Jim McLaughlin
Bob Picinich
Robert Barroll

Stuart Law
Annette Swank
Kelly Allen
Andrew Dickman

Caesar Rodney Institute
Center for Energy & Environment
PO Box 18
Lewes, DE 19958
WWW.CaesarRodney.org

Warren Cohen	Keith McCutcheon	Nancy Dickman	Tom Gardner
Marianne Meagher	M. Grass	Arthur Kales	Amy Kales
Beth Sellman	Robert D Briskman	Marcia Brager	Debra L Birenbaum, MD
Howard J. Birenbaum, MD	Robert z Smith Jr	K. Michelle Miller	Finn K Neilsen, Sr.
Michael Ryan	Janet Ryan	Tim Mullan	Chet & Jannell Dudick
Clark Cochran	Monica Cochran	Carole Duvall	Keith Angerman
Jon Stek	Cathryn Butler	Robert Butler	Linda Drake Ozycz
Sharon Kehnemui	Mari Thomas	Patrick Waring	Carroll McGill
Colleen Wilson	Marianne Picinich	Bob Picinich	Ellen Feeney
Franklin Vargo	Philip M. Drew	Mark DiSabatino	David Safferman, MD
Dave Bittle	Lynn Bittle	Chris Dedel	Cathy Kelly
Ciro Guerra	Deborah Guerra	Clare Blaser	Richard Blaser
Scott Ferber	Jim Knott	Glen Urquhart	Thomas P. Kane
Laurie M. Kane	Lori Weiss	David Young	G. Scott Ramsey
Christine Low	Lois Alperstein	Colleen Speer	Kathy Winfield
Alan Talpalar	Delia Tomoiaga Feinstein	Paul Feinstein	Aimee A. Toth
William T. Krzton	Charles Brooks	Jeffrey Recker	Steven J. Pierce
Christine Low	Gail Meucci	Robert Delli Paoli	Paddy Gordon
Marshall Gordon	Stephani Ballard Wagner	Patty Foux	Mike Foux
R Virostek	Greg Prestel	Sharon Prestel	Rick Kush
Bob Schmermund	Janet Schmermund	Elmer Nelson	Ann Kush
Raluca Monet	Michael Hoffman	Alison Hoffman	Lewis Curran

Protect Our Coast Delmarva

Jolie Harrison, Chief Permits & Conservation Division
Office of Protective Resources, NMFS
1315 East-west Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

June 1, 2023

Public Comments on US Wind Application for Letter of Authorization under the Marine Mammal Protection Act for the Maryland Offshore Wind Project in Document 2023-09194

As stated in the Federal register, "An incidental take authorization shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth. NMFS has defined "negligible impact" in 50 CFR 216.103 as an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival. the MMPA defines "harassment" as: any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance, which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (Level A harassment); or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (Level B harassment)".

By these measures US Wind has failed to meet these standards especially for the Critically Endangered North Atlantic right whale (NARW) and their application should be rejected for the following reasons:

- NMFS has established no standards for determining maximum estimated marine mammal abundances allowed in a month when construction will occur
- NMFS has not established what version of estimated population abundances should be used
- NMFS has not established the current abundance of NARWs
- No LOA should be issued until at least one of the planned 18 MW turbines is actually built in the ocean with sound levels measured and reported accurately
- No project should receive a LOA until this cumulative effect is fully considered
- The projects have not been approved yet, or completed the Environmental Impact Statement Process
- With no impact from the US Wind project, expected NARW deaths already exceed the level needed to maintain NARW stock. NMFS should not be approving any offshore wind activity that may further impact the NARW.

NMFS/NOAA allows applicants to determine protected mammal abundance in an arbitrary and capricious manor

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) along with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) have issued numerous Letters of Authorization (LOA) for incidental take of marine mammals by offshore wind development companies consulting with the applicants during the application and approval process. The agencies have established take limits using species stock estimates and expected

species densities in subject lease areas in an arbitrary and capricious manor. Consider two recent LOAs to the current Maryland Offshore Wind Project application in the Table below.

Table 1: Recent five year Incidental Take requests for the North Atlantic Right Whale (NARW)

	Wind	Ocean Wind 1	Coastal Virginia	
LOA Date		11/25/2022	Current	Current
NARW Take Request	20	14	23	6
NARW Population Estimate	394	368	346	338
Maximum Estimated NARW Presence Month Construction Allowed	June	December	May	November
Maximum Estimated NARW Presence/100KM^2 during construction	0.308	0.045	0.015	0.011
Maximum presence during construction compared to Marwin/Momentum Wind	28 X	4 X	1.4 X	-
Estimated Presence Version Used	2017	2022	2022	2022

Source of population density: Roberts and Halpin, Duke University, the Northeast Regional Planning Body, the University of North Carolina Wilmington, the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center, and NOAA Habitat-based Marine Mammal Density Models for the U.S. Atlantic: Latest Versions (duke.edu)

The agencies have approved recent projects without establishing a maximum allowed monthly estimated density of critically endangered NARW in the months construction is allowed. Allowed densities vary by a 28 fold difference, and there is no standard for the version of the source data used. This application gives an estimate of NARW population as 338 animals but each of the other projects uses a higher and different estimate from 346 to 394 animals. NMFS/NOAA should establish a NARW population number to be used in all applications, and a maximum allowed estimated population density for the months construction is allowed. No LOAs should be issued until these standards are met.

NMFSs' consideration of incidental take during wind turbine operation is insufficient

During construction dozens of mitigation steps are required to protect NARWs. The US Wind application allowing incidental take covers the period from January, 2025, through December, 2029, with construction completed by 2027 with partial operation as soon as 2025. This means the application will also cover incidental take during operation of the wind turbines. As a critically endangered species, the impacts on the NARW are of greatest concern. There are several potential impacts on the whales from high noise levels during construction:

1) Exposure of marine mammals to sound sources can result in, but is not limited to, no response or any of the following observable responses: increased alertness; orientation or attraction to a sound source; vocal modifications; cessation of feeding; cessation of social interaction; alteration of movement or diving behavior; habitat abandonment (temporary or permanent); and in severe cases, panic, flight, stampede, or stranding, potentially resulting in death

2) Avoidance is the displacement of an individual from an area or migration path as a result of the presence of a sound or other stressors and is one of the most obvious manifestations of disturbance in marine mammals. NARW tend to swim and feed near the water surface where zooplankton is abundant, putting them at increased risk of vessel collision (Mayo and Marx 1990; Baumgartner, M.F., et al. 2017; Parks et al. 2012). There is a high potential of vessel strikes as whales avoid noise harassment by leaving or avoiding a lease area and head into high traffic shipping lanes. See the map below showing the shipping lane abutting the project

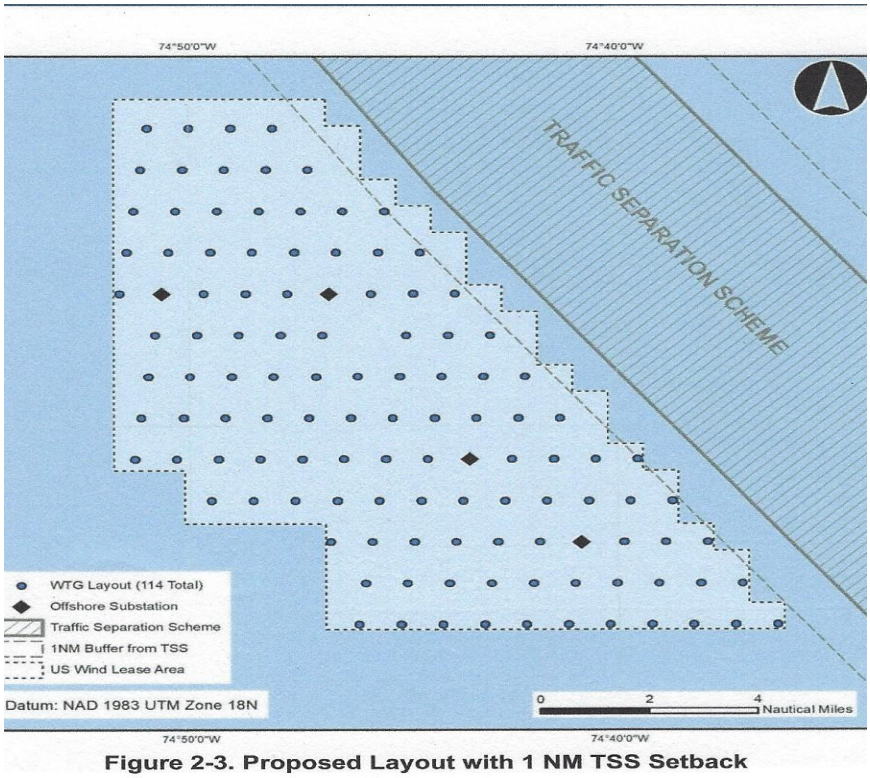


Figure 2-3. Proposed Layout with 1 NM TSS Setback

3) Behavioral change, such as disturbance manifesting in lost foraging time, in response to anthropogenic activities is often assumed to indicate a biologically significant effect on a population of concern. Five out of six North Atlantic right whales exposed to an acoustic alarm interrupted their foraging dives (Nowacek *et al.*, 2004).
4) Sound can disrupt behavior through masking, or interfering with, an animal's ability to detect, recognize, or discriminate between acoustic signals of interest. North Atlantic right whales have been observed to shift the frequency content of their calls upward while reducing the rate of calling in areas of increased anthropogenic noise (Parks *et al.*, 2007)

5) Sound can induce stress. Rolland *et al.* (2012) found that noise reduction from reduced ship traffic in the Bay of Fundy was associated with decreased stress in North Atlantic right whales. Correspondingly, increased noise levels can be expected to increase stress diverting energy from other functions
6) Sound may affect marine mammals through impacts on the abundance, behavior, or distribution of prey species (e.g., crustaceans, cephalopods, fish, and zooplankton). The presence and operation of structures such as wind turbines are, in general, likely to result in local and broader oceanographic effects in the marine environment and may disrupt marine mammal prey, such as dense aggregations and distribution of zooplankton.
7) Vessel collisions with marine mammals, also referred to as vessel strikes or ship strikes, can result in death or serious injury of the animal. Wounds resulting from ship strike may include massive trauma, hemorrhaging, broken bones, or propeller lacerations. US Wind expects at least 823 vessel trips/year during operation.

US Wind did not request and NMFS is not proposing to authorize take incidental to operation noise. The same potential harmful impacts described above during construction could exist during operation with the primary difference operational noise will be nearly continuous for decades. No turbines approaching the size of the up to 18 megawatt turbines planned for this project have been built in the ocean anywhere on the globe. A study by Stöber and Thomsen (2021) estimated the operational noise from the larger, more recent generation of direct-drive wind turbines. Their findings demonstrated noise levels could be up to 170 to 177 dB for a 10 megawatt turbine. Furthermore, noise levels where likely to diminish to NOAA Level B harassment levels of 120 dB at about 0.9 miles away from the turbine. Since planned turbine spacing is only on a 0.9 by 1.2 mile grid, noise levels will likely significantly exceed Level B harassment limits throughout the project area and for one mile beyond the project area. (Journal of the Acoustical Society, "How could operational underwater sound from future offshore wind turbines impact marine life?", Uwe Stöber *and* Frank Thomsen, https://asa.scitation.org/doi/abs/10.1121/10.0003760?journalCode=jas)

In addition to the above mentioned concerns, the US Wind application states "NARW's require extremely dense patches of zooplankton to feed efficiently". Also stated is the fact average length of NARWs has decreased 7.3% over the period 1981-2019. Smaller size can impact breeding and nursing. Broad scale hydrodynamic impacts could alter zooplankton distribution and abundance by greater mixing (van Berkel et al. 2020). US Wind admits in their application, "If the presence of Project structures causes a change in ocean circulation, it may cause marine mammals to shift their foraging grounds to account for shifting distributions of prey species."

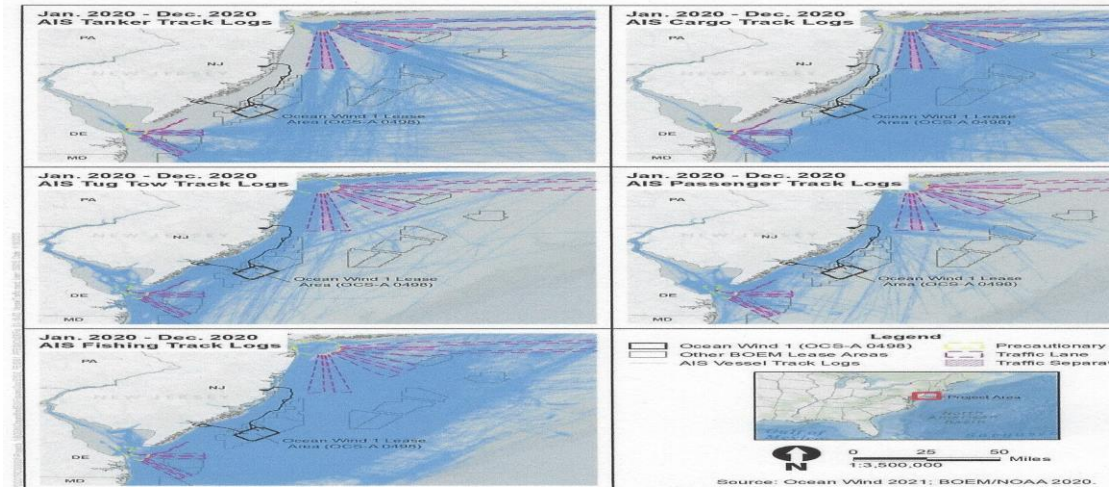
As reported in the application, "Abundance estimates, Potential Biological Removal (PBR) values, and Annual Mortality/Serious Injury (M/SI) values were sourced from the most recent NOAA Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Report issued for each species and stock (88 FR 4162, Hayes et al. 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019; Waring et al. 2015). PBR is defined by the MMPA as the maximum number of animals, not including natural mortalities, that may be removed from a marine mammal stock while allowing that stock to reach or maintain its optimum sustainable population. Annual M/SI values represent annual levels of human-caused

mortality plus serious injury from all sources combined (e.g., commercial fisheries, ship strike)." The NARW PBR estimate given in Table 3.1 is 0.7 while the M/SI value is 8.1. NARW are currently experiencing an unusual mortality event (UME); elevated numbers of dead or seriously injured NARW have been recorded in Canada and the United States since 2017 (NOAA Fisheries 2023a). Throughout this time period, 35 NARW deaths have been reported, as well as 22 serious injuries, and 37 sub-lethal injuries and illnesses (NOAA Fisheries 2023a). In the period of 2016-2020, incidental fishery entanglement mortality and serious injury averaged 5.7 individuals per year, and vessel strike mortality and serious injury averaged 2.4 individuals per year (88 FR 4162). This means, with no impact from the US Wind project, expected NARW deaths already exceed the level needed to maintain NARW stock. NMFS should not be approving any offshore wind activity that may further impact the NARW.

Clearly, operational noise poses a serious, and even potentially deadly threat and could result in NARW extinctions. No LOA should be issued until at least one of the planned 18 MW turbines is actually built in the ocean with sound levels measured and reported accurately. Building the project with sound measured only after project is built is unacceptable.

NMFS has failed to consider the cumulative impact from the numerous LOAs issued in active NARW habitat

The Harassment Permit analysis does not assess *cumulative* impacts on the affected marine mammals. Instead, it treats the Project as if it were to be installed and operated in a vacuum, where no other impacts exists. In reality the project is adjacent to the Skipjack 1 and 2 Projects, and the Garden State project, and not far from multiple projects off the southern New Jersey coast. All of these projects may be simultaneously be under construction, and will certainly be operational at the same time. Marine mammals avoiding the Marwin and Momentum Wind projects may simply wander into another project and across multiple shipping channels adding to stress and confusion greatly increasing the potential for vessel strikes and entanglement. See the below maps of vessel paths to the north of the Maryland project. NMFS is ignoring this issue. No project should receive a LOA until this cumulative effect is fully considered.



Conclusion

The US Wind request for a LOA, and NMFS consultation on the request is seriously flawed and incomplete. The request should be denied.

Dianna P. Harris
Protect Our Coast Delmarva
e-mail: diannaharris@me.com

Jolie Harrison
Chief, Permits and Conservation Division
Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to development of the Maryland Offshore Wind Project offshore Maryland in the BOEM Commercial Lease on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS–A 0490); Docket No. 2023–09194.

Submitted via email

Dear Ms. Harrison,

The West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group (WCP) is composed of fishermen and processors with operations in California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. We are a relatively small organization focused largely on the role the fishing industry can serve with the science community on coastal pelagic species. WCP's primary mission is a collaborative survey with the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) utilizing an industry fishing vessel and a NOAA research vessel. Our membership collectively catches, processes, and markets every major species on the west coast and employees over four thousand and services over one thousand fishing vessels. We are members of the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance. (RODA)

While WCP does not fully understand the interaction and regulatory process in the supporting documents surrounding the ***Taking (of) Marine Mammals Incidental to development of the Maryland Offshore Wind Project offshore Maryland in the BOEM Commercial Lease on the Outer Continental Shelf (MD OSW Take)*** we are familiar with marine mammal interactions and the avoidance regulations and protections afforded for these animals under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and/or the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Our members work hard and diligently to avoid interactions with marine mammals and other protected species and are under strict take limits and the laser focus by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and other agencies enforcement departments. This has cost our industry millions of dollars in lost opportunity revenue and fuel, but the law is the law and should be enforced equally regardless of the individual, the industry, or the agencies involved. In this the NEPA process and the listed statutory protections for marine mammals and/or ESA fauna should be administered fairly,

equally, and without bias.

The WCP herein supports and incorporates by reference three documents related to the MD OSW Take proposed action.

1. The RODA comments on the MD OSW Take Action-Docket No. 2023–09194. Mr. Conroy, executive director for RODA Pacific and RODA staff have put together a cogent and comprehensive document that everyone should review. It goes into many areas of concern on the execution of the proposal for marine mammal protections for MD OSW Take that are outlined in the NOAA document. These are frankly inadequate and incomplete in their coverage.
2. Mr. Larry Thevik's 02/06/2023 comments from the Washington Dungeness Crab Fishermen's Association, *Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the Revolution Wind Offshore Wind Farm Project Offshore Rhode Island (87 Fed. Reg. 79,072, December 23, 2022*. Submitted via www.regulations.gov at NOAA–NMFS–2022–0127 as regards incidental takes of marine mammals. Mr. Thevik has a great deal of experience with whale interaction in fisheries, including policies and regulation, on the west coast. As he states, what steps are taken on the east coast will likely follow on the west coast.
3. Two Tribal documents:
    a. **N A T I O N A L C O N G R E S S O F A M E R I C A N I N D I A N S:**

" *BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI strongly urges the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to* ***halt all scoping and permitting for offshore wind projects*** *until completion of a comprehensive and transparent procedure adequately protecting tribal environmental and sovereign interests is developed and implemented…." (February 20-23,2023)*

b. Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States,

2023 Midyear Convention Worley, Idaho RESOLUTION #2023 – 39

"Immediate Action To Develop A Comprehensive And Transparent Procedure for Offshore Wind Project Permitting To Adequately Protect Tribal Environmental And Sovereign Interests."

WHEREAS, currently, the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) have not provided adequate opportunities for tribal consultation or addressed our concerns regarding the potential impacts of offshore wind projects. This lack of consultation and transparency violates our inherent sovereign rights and responsibilities; now

"BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, until this procedure is developed and implemented, ***we request that all scoping and permitting for offshore wind projects be halted****. We cannot afford to sacrifice our cultural and natural resources for the sake of renewable energy without ensuring that our sovereign interests are protected." (May 11, 2023)*

(WCP note: Pacific Whiting and sardines are two species that historically spawn off central and southern California and later find their way north into the U&A's of four NW Washington tribes as young adult fish.)

WCP Strongly supports the recommendations of these tribal organizations to halt the scoping and permitting further authorizing OSW. We further state that all phases of Offshore Wind Energy development (OSW) should be halted. This is particularly relevant to the MD OSW Take proposal. We

have not researched the associated NOAA MD OSW Take documentation as well as RODA, but we have long observed that BOEM and their support agencies' rush actions to lease, site, and construct wind farms, and concluded that this is a symptom of a flawed process. The OSW venture writ large has not planned or taken into consideration actions that capture true cost of OSW electricity to the consumer, realistic impacts to fishing communities. Nor has BOEM objectively assessed the lost value for the destruction of US fisheries, environment, habitat, and ecological impacts to the ocean and its marine life systems, or have they evaluated undersized transmission systems and other infrastructure, and the net contribution of the US OSW blueprint to combat climate change. This while most of the world is going forward with the establishment of massive fossil fuel electrical generation plants to compete economically with the US. We support renewable energy that is reliable and does not eliminate major sources of food production, minimizes use of natural resources to produce generation, and that we are certain will not have catastrophic effect on near pristine environments. We do not believe OSW matches up well for any of those objectives.

In direct support of the RODA comments on this topic we chose to focus on three important areas that RODA has covered.

First, is the recent increase in whale mortality events that were concurrent with OSW site survey work in the area. Fishermen, their organizations, and NGO's have pointed out NOAA fisheries astigmatism. The agency maintains it was an increase in vessel traffic or climate change that caused the whales' deaths. They are leaving out the most important point. You cannot determine if the causation was related to the whales' diminished ability to determine its location due to acoustic damage to its echolocation systems without doing necropsies. To not administer necropsies and blithely going forward is a negligent non-action and leaves the question dangling as to whether OSW related surveys are harmful to these protected species. As there likely will be ESA North Atlantic Right Whales (NARW) intersecting these MD OSW Take survey areas this is critical knowledge as to number of "A" takes and the relational damage to the population dynamics of all ESA listed species.

Second: RODA comments point out that there will be 634,345 estimated marine mammal Level B harassments. Frankly this seems to be an insane amount of interaction. 912 of these are predicted to be NARW Level B harassments but not any Level A takes are asked for. WCP members find this difficult to believe. The danger of losing one NARW is too great to not have some insurance policy for the siting and construction phases. Independent observers on all operational vessels might be one option to consider if it is not already mandated. Shutting down operations when they are in proximity to the survey vessels or construction vessels could be another. This is mandated for fishermen on the west coast when whales are seen in areas where crab traps are located, or longlining occurs.

Third: Understanding cumulative impacts to our fisheries, coastal community economies, our marine ecosystems is essential to understanding the totality if economic and ecological impacts under OSW if it adheres to the 2050 goals. For BOEM to reject cumulative impacts studies is more than incompetance. It is malfeasance.

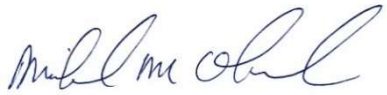
In conclusion we believe there are enough red lights blinking to halt all OSW projects under way and to go through a top to bottom OSW review to realize the full benefits of OSW versus the downside of setting

out with little planning other than “get it done so we can save the planet” instructions. More people are waking up to the facts and misinformation surrounding the OSW proposition. Until recently has been dismissed only as hyperbole. This is not the case, however. The people who have studied this in any depth are realizing that as presently structured this will offer little if anything to combat climate change while running up a price tag of trillions that US taxpayers will have to pay. There are less costly and less complicated ways to effectively fight climate change without damaging one of the most pristine regions on the planet. This can be done and still sustainably feed the world far into the future if we only use some common sense and good science.

It is time to do as many of the tribes have petitioned. Halt the OSW process and reevaluate what we are doing to our marine environment and the 80 plus billion dollars of annual economic activity founded on US non-imported seafood which supports over 500,000 jobs[1].

Our last remark: NOAA fisheries role is to ensure the protection of our marine resources without bias and while executing social justice. This should be applied equally to all parties and industries. To do otherwise is a political travesty.

Thank you,
Respectfully.



Mike Okoniewski
Secretary of West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group
Mokoniewski.consultant@pacificseafood.com
Ph: 360-619-2019

C.c. Greg Shaughnessy, COO Ocean Gold Seafoods
Vice-President of West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group
gshaughnessy@oceancos.com;
360-310-0662

[1] Fishery Economics of the United States 2020. https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/sustainable-fisheries/fisheries-economics-united-states

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Objection to wind farm off the coast of Maryland and Delaware

1 message

Keith Angerman <kangerman@yahoo.com> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 10:19 AM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov
Cc: "DavidStevenson@caesarrodney.org" <DavidStevenson@caesarrodney.org>, "Board@seacolony.com" <Board@seacolony.com>

I am issuing my disagreement with allowing a wind farm off the coast of Ocean City, MD, Fenwick Island, DE and Bethany Beach, DE.

I own property at Sea Colony in Bethany Beach which would be severely impacted by this development. The major issue i have is the highly visible red aircraft warning lights which will be illuminated all night and would ruin the sight-line from my 5th floor balcony.

All the studies I have seen stated the windmills would not be visible but did not address the visibility of the red aircraft warning lights at the top from elevated positions on shore. Daytime visibility on the ground level is bad enough but nighttime visibility has not been studied. One of the major features affecting rentability of my unit is the view. Most shoreline properties have multiple storied structures and looking out to the ocean to see a line of red would ruin the view and property values.

Please consider this impact and move the windmills farther off shore or move them to a more southern coast area with no to minimal residential construction.

Sincerely,
Keith Angerman
Sea Colony
501 Chesapeake House Road
Bethany, Beach, DE 19930

NOAA

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Fwd: Urgent! Offshore Wind Farm Comments Due June 1

1 message

jimbigart@verizon.net <jimbigart@verizon.net> Mon, May 29, 2023 at 5:09 PM
Reply-To: jimbigart@verizon.net
To: "ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov" <ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov>

I believe the US Wind request for a LOA, and NMFS consultation on the request is seriously flawed and incomplete. The request should be denied. Robert J Bigart Sea Colony

-----Original Message-----
From: Sea Colony Communications <marketing@seacolony.com>
To: jimbigart@verizon.net
Sent: Mon, May 29, 2023 4:40 pm
Subject: Urgent! Offshore Wind Farm Comments Due June 1

View this email in your browser

Sea Colony

Urgent! Offshore Wind Farm Comments Due June 1

According to a past survey of Sea Colony homeowners, a vast majority of owners advised the SCRA Board that a visible wind farm off the coast was not desired. Sea Colony had since passed a resolution to support a federal adoption of an exclusion zone for offshore wind of at least 30 miles from the coast of Delaware, and Sea Colony. The SCRA Board does not take a firm position for or against wind farms, just the visibility of them from our coast.

In keeping with the SCRA Board commitment to keep the community informed about the proposed offshore wind project, we are forwarding you the below information from David T. Stevenson, Director, Center for Energy & Environment, Caesar Rodney Institute in Lewes, DE. Signing on to this as it requests, or writing your own, would signal your desire not to have visible wind farms as well as your viewpoint on taking mammals in the process.

If you have any questions please send an email to board@seacolony.com.

US Wind has applied to the federal government for approval to incidentally take marine mammals for the next five years of construction and operation. This provides us with the first opportunity to stop the projects visible off Ocean City, MD, Fenwick Island, South Bethany, and Bethany Beach. ***Comments are due June 1.*** *Please see my draft comments here.*

Submitting comments establishes the standing to sue, and a lawsuit is highly likely. You may use my comments to submit your own (to ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov), or to sign onto mine with your name and e-mail address (and title if representing an organization). I will be reaching out to other organizations to join us.

Please let me know if you want to sign on or if you will be submitting your own comments.

David T. Stevenson
Director, Center for Energy & Environment
Caesar Rodney Institute
DavidStevenson@CaesarRodney.org

Keep In Touch!

Facebook Instagram Website Email

Our mailing address is:
Sea Colony Recreational Association
PO Box 480
Bethany Beach, DE 19930-0480

Add us to your address book

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Fw: totally against maryland wind towers too - its a horror for awhales to go down east coast now public omment on federal regisetr

1 message

o <bk1492@aol.com> Tue, May 2, 2023 at 8:40 PM
To: "kimberly.damon@noaa.gov" <kimberly.damon@noaa.gov>, "itp.harrison@noaa.gov" <itp.harrison@noaa.gov>, "itp.taylor@noaa.gov" <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>, "tom.kean@mail.house.gov" <tom.kean@mail.house.gov>, "jeff.vandrew@mail.house.gov" <jeff.vandrew@mail.house.gov>
Cc: "info@peta.org" <info@peta.org>, "info@idausa.org" <info@idausa.org>, "info@cok.net" <info@cok.net>, "info@mercyforanimals.org" <info@mercyforanimals.org>, "info@nyclass.org" <info@nyclass.org>, "info@lohv.org" <info@lohv.org>, "ionfo@aplnj.org" <ionfo@aplnj.org>

why arent public comments on this on regulations.gov, this agency can delete comments and say they never got them. and never take them into consideration, especially since this agency is regualtorily captured by fishermen and wind tower profiteers. this agency is partial to wind tower profiteers and commercial fising and not partial to keeping the environment safe. after all whales have no money to bibe with and no money to throw at the agency personnel. but profiteers do. its slanted and biased as can be at our govt agency imo.

i am against these wind towers. the fish/mammals already have fishing boats to contend with. toxic chemicals in the water to contend with. shipping olanes that take over the oxcean because we buy too much from lousy china to contend with. the whales have climate change and warming oceans filled with higher arbon to contend with. they are starving to death because we take all tehir food.

and then now the lousy politicians want to really kill the ocean life with wind towers. it is a very b ad iadea. we cannot contijniue to ruin the envirionment like noaa is allowing. noaa is not an environmetnal algency at all. it is regulatorily captured by big money.

i am against wind towers. i want ocean life protected. this is abad idea for everybody and every peson n america. this commetn is for the public record. please redceipt. b ker bk1492@aol.com
Subject: totally against maryland wind towers too - its a horror for awhales to go down east coast now

[Federal Register Volume 88, Number 84 (Tuesday, May 2, 2023)]
[Notices]
[Pages 27463-27464]
From the Federal Register Online via the Government Publishing Office [www.gpo.gov]
[FR Doc No: 2023-09194]

[[Page 27463]]

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XC748]

Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals
Incidental to Construction of the Maryland Offshore Wind Project
Offshore of Maryland

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application for letter of authorization; request for comments and information.

SUMMARY: NMFS has received a request from US Wind, Inc. (US Wind) for authorization to take small numbers of marine mammals incidental to the development of the Maryland Offshore Wind Project (Project) in the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Commercial Lease on the Outer Continental Shelf OCS-A 0490 off of Maryland over the course of 5 years beginning on January 1, 2025. Pursuant to regulations implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is announcing receipt of US Wind's request for regulations governing the incidental taking of marine mammals. NMFS invites the public to provide information, suggestions, and comments on US Wind's application and request.

DATES: Comments and information must be received no later than June 1, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the applications should be addressed to Jolie Harrison, Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service. Physical comments should be sent to 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 and electronic comments should be sent to ITP.taylor@noaa.gov.

Instructions: NMFS is not responsible for comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period. Comments received electronically, including all attachments, must not exceed a 25-megabyte file size. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word or Excel or Adobe PDF file formats only. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted online at https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/incidental-take-authorizations-other-energy-activities-renewable without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jessica Taylor, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401. An electronic copy of US Wind's application may be obtained online at: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/incidental-take-authorizations-other-energy-activities-renewable. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.) direct the Secretary of Commerce (as delegated to NMFS) to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and either regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

An incidental take authorization shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings

are set forth.

NMFS has defined ``negligible impact'' in 50 CFR 216.103 as an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival.

The MMPA states that the term ``take'' means to harass, hunt, capture, kill or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, or kill any marine mammal.

Except with respect to certain activities not pertinent here, the MMPA defines ``harassment'' as: any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance, which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (Level A harassment); or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (Level B harassment).

Summary of Request

On August 31, 2022, NMFS received an application from US Wind requesting authorization to take marine mammals incidental to the development of the Project in the BOEM Lease Area OCS-A-0490 off of Maryland. In response to our comments, and following an extensive information exchange with NMFS, US Wind submitted a final revised application on March 31, 2023, which we deemed adequate and complete on April 3, 2023. US Wind requests the regulations and subsequent Letter of Authorization (LOA) be valid for 5 years, beginning on January 1, 2025.

US Wind plans to construct the Project in three phases. Maryland Wind (phase 1; MarWin) is scheduled to be constructed in 2025; Momentum Wind (phase 2) is scheduled to be constructed in 2026; and Future Development (phase 3) is scheduled to be constructed in 2027. Each phase would include impact installation of wind turbine generators (WTG) and offshore substation (OSS) foundations, and inter-array and export cable trenching, laying, and burial. In addition, a single meteorological (met) tower would be installed during Momentum Wind construction. Site characterization surveys would be conducted only during the Momentum Wind and Future Development phases. Vessels would be used to transport crew, supplies, and materials to the project area to support construction. US Wind has determined that a subset of these activities (i.e., installing piles using impact pile driving and site characterization surveys) may result in the take, by Level A harassment and Level B harassment, of marine mammals. Therefore, US Wind requests authorization to incidentally take marine mammals.

Specified Activities

Through a competitive leasing process under 30 CFR 585.211, US Wind was awarded Commercial Lease OCS-A 0490, offshore of Maryland, and the exclusive rights to submit a construction and operations plan (COP) for activities within the lease area. US Wind has submitted a COP to BOEM proposing the construction, operation, maintenance, and conceptual decommissioning of the Project, which is a commercial-scale offshore wind energy facilities within a Lease Area covering approximately 80,000 acres (323.75 square kilometers (km\2\)) and located approximately 18.5 km off the

[[Page 27464]]

coast of Maryland. The Project would consist of a total capacity of up to two gigawatts (GW) and US Wind has secured power purchase agreements (PPAs) with the state of Maryland for 1,108 megawatts (MW). The Project would include MarWin, a wind farm of approximately 300 MW, Momentum Wind, consisting of approximately 808 MW, and future development in the

remainder of the lease area. The Project would consist of up to 114 wind turbine generators, 4 OSSs, 1 met tower, 2 transmission cables to shore making landfall in Delaware, and up to 4 export cables.

US Wind anticipates the following activities may potentially result in the harassment of marine mammals during the effective period of the requested regulations and associated LOA:

Installing up to 114 WTG monopile foundations with a maximum diameter of 11 meters (m) using a 4,400 kJ impact hammer;

Installing up to four OSSs foundation using 11-m monopiles driven with a 4,400 kJ impact hammer or jacket foundation comprised of 3-m pin piles driven with a 1,500 kJ impact hammer, or suction bucket foundations;

Installing one permanent met tower supported by three 1.8-m pin piles using a 500 kJ impact hammer; and

Using HRG equipment to survey the Lease Area over 28 days.

Information Solicited

Interested persons may submit information, suggestions, and comments concerning US Wind's request (see ADDRESSES). NMFS will consider all information, suggestions, and comments related to the request during the development of proposed regulations governing the incidental taking of marine mammals by US Wind, if appropriate.

Dated: April 26, 2023.
Kimberly Damon-Randall,
Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 2023-09194 Filed 5-1-23; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Comment

1 message

Patti Breg <pattibgm@gmail.com> Mon, May 29, 2023 at 8:18 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

The killing of mammals in the ocean is not allowed as it stands They are protected by law and the fact the the wind farm companies want to be able to have the right to kill our ocean mammals is very disturbing. The people of this country do not need to kill whales in order to build wind farms. I am asking that this hanous project be thought through, and shut down before it's too late. There are so many aspects that have not been studied,and this project should not be allowed to move forward. There must be a better way for the United States to move forward. The US Wind request for a LOA should be denied.

Patti Breger
Pattibgm@gmail.com

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

US Wind request for a LOA

1 message

Paul Breger <pbreger@fenwickisland.org> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 9:06 AM
To: "ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov" <ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov>

Jolie Harrison, Chief Permits & Conservation Division June 1, 2023
Office of Protective Resources, NMFS
1315 East-west Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Public Comments on US Wind Application for Letter of Authorization (LOA) under the Marine Mammal Protection Act for the Maryland Offshore Wind Project in Document 2023-09194

As stated in the Federal register, “An incidental take authorization shall be granted if NMFS [The National Marine Fisheries Service] finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth. NMFS has defined “negligible impact” in 50 CFR 216.103 as an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival. the MMPA defines “harassment” as: any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance, which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (Level A harassment); or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioural patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (Level B harassment)”.
By these measures US Wind has failed to meet these standards especially for the Critically Endangered North Atlantic Right Whale (NARW) and their application should be rejected for the following reasons:

- NMFS has established no standards for determining maximum estimated marine mammal abundances allowed in a month when construction will occur
- NMFS has not established what version of estimated population abundances should be used
- NMFS has not established the current abundance of NARWs
- No LOA should be issued until at least one of the planned 18 MW turbines is actually built in the ocean with sound levels measured and reported accurately
- No project should receive a LOA until this cumulative effect is fully considered
- The projects have not been approved yet, or completed the Environmental Impact Statement Process
- With no impact from the US Wind project, expected NARW deaths already exceed the level needed to maintain NARW stock. NMFS should not be approving any offshore wind activity that may further impact the NARW.

NMFS should not be approving any offshore wind activity that may further impact the NARW.
Clearly, operational noise poses a serious, and even potentially deadly threat and could result in NARW extinctions. No LOA should be issued until at least one of the planned 18 MW turbines is actually

built in the ocean with sound levels measured and reported accurately. Building the project with sound measured only after project is built is unacceptable.

The US Wind request for a LOA, and NMFS consultation on the request is seriously flawed and incomplete. The request should be denied.*

Regards,
Paul Breger
Chairman, Fenwick Island Environmental Committee
* Research performed and permitted for use by David Stevenson

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Wind Farm Update

1 message

Karen Broujos <kmbroujos@hotmail.com> Wed, May 31, 2023 at 12:40 PM
To: "ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov" <ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov>

Hi David,
I am a resident of Sea Del in Bethany and would like to sign on to your petition.
Thank you,
Karen Broujos
443.786.5007

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

U.S Wind application

1 message

Thomas Burns <tpburns44@gmail.com> Mon, May 29, 2023 at 6:14 PM
To: ITP.taylor@noaa.gov

To whom it may concern,

Please do not approve the U.S. Wind application for incidental killing of marine wildlife off of Marylands coast. The definition of incidental is subjective and ANY killing of marine wildlife for any reason, especially convenience or money, is wrong. The ocean is a finite ecosystem and should not be disturbed in this case. Thank you.

Thomas P. Burns
8 Hidden Ponds Court
Gaithersburg,MD. 20878
Ph# 240-599-6086

Sent from my iPad

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Maryland public comment for incidental take of ocean creatures.

2 messages

Andrea Caggiano <abc681@mchsi.com> Wed, May 3, 2023 at 2:49 AM
To: ITP.taylor@noaa.gov

To: Jolie Harrison, Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

Dear Chief Jolie Harrison,

We are writing this letter to oppose any requests from US Wind or other companies to allow incidental takes of our ocean creatures.
Over 1/2 million citizens have signed the State of New Jerseys petition calling for a halt to sonar mapping and offshore wind.

Our Federal agency's report titled "Fisheries and Offshore wind interactions: Synthesis of Science" states, "The lack of knowledge on the intensities of EMF anticipated from offshore wind cables, makes it difficult to draw conclusions based on studies to date." And shows how the electromagnetic field (EMF) around high-powered undersea cable can change sea life behavior. These lines run through our protected watershed. These studies are not complete and further allow our ocean life and ecosystems to be "harassed" is not protecting ecosystems or human life.

NOAA, RODA, BOEM, Northeast Fisheries Science Center have a striking array of issues related to offshore wind development as the report states.

The authorized Level 3 Harassment In 2023, 40 whales deaths NOAA concluded to be struck by an ocean vessel. This already shows the total disregard by these vessels sonar and traffic not reporting a whale collisions. It's also proves Level 3 Harassment is disorienting all creatures and causing vessel strikes, and more net entanglements. Pods of Dolphin are beaching themself to flee the ocean due to this Level 3 harassment from sonar mapping.

These applications and extensions of incidental takes will not end.
Level 3 harassment will continue during the construction of the wind turbines offshore. There are deaths do we not know about. One (1) SEI in NC started the count. There could be more. the authorized number was 3.

1970- legislation passed and the country UNITED to protected the whales.
1986- We UNITED the WORLD and halted commercial whaling worldwide.
25+ years later countries still ignore this. We should not be one of them.

These foreign wind turbine companies do not know our waters and fragile ecosystem. Nor climate change in currents, waves, winds, and storms in our ocean. And according to the report , Federal agency's do not know the harassment to the protected watershed.

As climate change affects our earth , scientist have proven these sentinels help combat climate change - and sustain human life.

Our ecosystem was once called fragile. It naturally protects our migratory animals , birds, earth, and protecting human life.
Therefore, the application for incidental take should be denied.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely,
Rehoboth Beach , Bethany Beach, Ocean View, and Fenwick Island property owners.
State of Delaware

Andrea Caggiano <abc681@mchsi.com> Wed, May 3, 2023 at 2:52 AM

To: ITP.taylor@noaa.gov

[Quoted text hidden]

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

US Wind Application for Letter of Application

3 messages

Vicki Carmean <vlcarmean@verizon.net> Wed, May 31, 2023 at 12:43 PM
Reply-To: Vicki Carmean <vlcarmean@verizon.net>
To: "ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov" <ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov>

Jolie Harrison, Chief Permits & Conservation Division
Office of Protective Resources NMFS
1315 East-west Highway
Silver Springs, MD 20910

RE: Public Comments on US Wind Application for Letter of Authorization under the Marine Mammal Protection Act for the Maryland Offshore Wind Project in Document 2023-09194

Dear Chief Harrison and Staff:

In reference to the statement in the Federal register, "An incidental take authorization shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species...and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements ... are set forth...the MMPA defines 'harassment" as: any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance that ... has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (Level B harassment)."

By these measures, US Wind should not be granted this application because the North Atlantic Right Whale (NARW) (as well other endangered marine species) could be negatively impacted due to the following:

1. NMFS has established no standards for estimating the maximum number of "kills" allowed in each month of construction.
2. NMFS has not established what the current numbers are for NARWs.
3. NMFS has not established what version of the estimated abundances should be used.
4. No Letter of Authorization (LOA) should be issued until at least one of the planned 18 MW turbines is actually built with sound levels measured and accurately reported.
5. No project should receive a LOA until this data is fully considered.
6. The proposed wind turbine projects have not yet been approved yet or completed the Environmental Impact Statement process.
7. With little or no impact from the US Wind project, expected NARW deaths already exceed the level needed to maintain the NARW species (stock). NMFS should not approve any offshore wind activity that may further decimate the NARW.

It is obvious to those of us who support protecting our natural resources that many state and federal agencies whose purpose is to reinforce environmental protection have been compromised by the investors and politicians pushing to industrialize the Atlantic Ocean at the expense of the delicate marine animals and birds who need this area for survival. As such, NMFS should not be approving any offshore wind activity that may further harm the NARW. Clearly scientific tests have shown that operational noise poses a serious and potentially deadly threat that could result in NARW extinctions. No LOA should issued until a turbine is built in the ocean with sound levels measured and reported accurately.

Both the US Wind request for a LOA and NMFS consultation on the request are flawed and incomplete. Your agency should deny the application!

Sincerely,

Vicki Carmean, 50 year resident/property owner in Fenwick Island
38 Ebb Tide Cove
Fenwick Island, Delaware 19944

R Carmean <drwcarmean@verizon.net> Wed, May 31, 2023 at 2:30 PM
To: "ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov" <ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov>

my wife and I support the following:

Dr.R.Wayne Carmean

[Quoted text hidden]

Colleen Wilson <clw728@comcast.net> Wed, May 31, 2023 at 4:15 PM
To: Vicki Carmean <vlcarmean@verizon.net>
Cc: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

Thank you, Vicki!

Sent from my iPhone

> On May 31, 2023, at 12:43 PM, Vicki Carmean <vlcarmean@verizon.net> wrote:
>
> [Quoted text hidden]

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Wind Farms

1 message

Chuck Carroll <carrluck@comcast.net> Mon, May 29, 2023 at 5:51 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

We are sending you this letter to say we agree with the points in David Stevenson's letter of June 1, 2023. Additionally, other studies have shown that visible wind turbines will have a significant negative impact on tourism and property values. On the latter points, it seems an obvious compromise would be to locate the wind turbines out of sight from the shore. This would not address the environmental issues cited in David's letter.
In reality, we would prefer they be eliminated altogether. Please stop or change the plan.

Charles and Lou Ann Carroll
Carrluck@comcast.net

Sent from my iPad

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Off shore wind farm approvals

1 message

Rick Cashen <rick.cashen@gmail.com> Wed, May 31, 2023 at 11:59 AM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

I understand NOAA is involved in approving several new industrial wind power complexes off the east coast of the US.

I oppose all of these projects.

Industrial wind turbines extract power from the wind, but most of that power is converted to acoustic energy not electricity. The Betz limit is 59% but that's in a lab and the Atlantic ocean is far from lab conditions. That acoustic energy is then broadcast into the water via the anchor structure. Worse, the pre-construction sonar testing uses volumes that are damaging to marine life.

Many marine mammals use acoustics to both navigate and communicate. So when deaf whales start washing up on the east coast in record numbers you don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure out what is going on.

NOAA should be protecting marine life, not be part of its destruction.

Rick Cashen
210 Maple St, Lindenwood, IL 61049

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Not wind farm at all in our horizon : definitely a NO

1 message

Frank Christiano <fchristiano@hotmail.com> Mon, May 29, 2023 at 7:04 PM
To: "ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov" <ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov>

Please do not develop a wind farm on our sea Colony horizon or for that matter no where.
Frank Christiano
Sea Colony

Sent from my iPhone

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Wind farm

1 message

Ellen Consoli <serenergymassage28@gmail.com> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 7:44 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

To whom it may concern,
Dear Sir or Madam:
Regarding the discussion of a wind farm off of the Bethany Beach, Delaware coast line, I am all for utilizing wind power and think that wind mills are not the eyesores that most feel that they are, and are productive in the battle to utilize natural resources for clean energy production.
I would expect that every precaution against the loss of marine life of any sort, not just mammals, would be curtailed as best as possible.
Thank you for allowing individuals to weigh in on this matter.
Sincerely,
Ellen Consoli.

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Opposition to Mid-Atlantic Wind Farms

1 message

richard.f.cronin@gmail.com <richard.f.cronin@gmail.com> Mon, May 29, 2023 at 12:46 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov
Cc: David Stevenson <davidstevenson1948@gmail.com>

To: ITP Taylor, NOAA

As a resident of Delaware, you should know that if NOAA and BOEM proceed with their reckless and arrogant approval for environmentally destructive offshore wind farms you will be met with class action lawsuits never seen before.

Beyond whale kills and deaths of marine birds, the history of wind farms are rife with scientific fraud in their actual power delivery, reliability, economic benefits, ongoing maintenance costs and decommissioning. Carbon fiber blades cannot be recycled and end up in landfills.

Stop these monstrosities NOW !

Richard Cronin
Wilmington, DE

Sent from my iPhone

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Wind Turbine projects

1 message

Val Curran <coopercurran@comcast.net> Thu, Jun 1, 2023 at 2:40 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

I am a Delaware resident and am against all off shore wind turbines that are being pushed on us. Wind power is proven in Europe not to be a viable renewable source of energy. They are 15 years ahead of us on this initiative and we should not be going down the same failed path. A total waste of tax payer money and a most dangerous element to face our ecosystems.
Lewis Curran
Coopercurran@comcast.net

Sent from Val Curran's Iphone

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

US Wind Application for Letter of Authorization under the Marine Mammal Protection Act for the Maryland Offshore Wind Project in Document 2023-09194

1 message

John Donofrio <donofrio.john@gmail.com> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 2:07 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov
Cc: John Donofrio <donofrio.john@gmail.com>

Jolie Harrison, Chief Permits & Conservation Division June 1, 2023
Office of Protective Resources, NMFS
1315 East-west Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Public Comments on US Wind Applicat ion for Letter of Authorization under the Marine Mammal Protection
Act for the Maryland Offshore Wind Project in Document 2023-09194

As stated in the Federal register, "An incidental take authorization shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth. NMFS has defined "negligible impact" in 50 CFR 216.103 as an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival. the MMPA defines "harassment" as: any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance, which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (Level A harassment); or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (Level B harassment)".
By these measures US Wind has failed to meet these standards especially for the Critically Endangered North Atlantic right whale (NARW) and their application should be rejected for the following reasons:

- **NMFS has established no standards for determining maximum estimated marine mammal abundances allowed in a month when construction will occur**
- **NMFS has not established what version of estimated population abundances should be used**
- **NMFS has not established the current abundance of NARWs**
- **No LOA should be issued until at least one of the planned 18 MW turbines is actually built in the ocean with sound levels measured and reported accurately**
- **No project should receive a LOA until this cumulative effect is fully considered**
- **The projects have not been approved yet, or completed the Environmental Impact Statement**

Process

With no impact from the US Wind project, expected NARW deaths already exceed the level needed
to maintain NARW stock. NMFS should not be approving any offshore wind activity that may further impact the NARW.
NMFS/NOAA allows applicants to determine protected mammal abundance in an arbitrary and capricious manor
The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) along with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) have issued numerous Letters of Authorization (LOA) for incidental take of marine mammals by offshore wind development companies consulting with the applicants during the application
and approval process. The agencies have established take limits using species stock estimates and expected

Caesar Rodney Institute
Center for Energy & Environment

PO Box 18
Lewes, DE 19958
WWW.CaesarRodney.org

species densities in subject lease areas in an arbitrary and capricious manor. Consider two recent LOAs to
the current Maryland Offshore Wind Project application in the Table below.
Table 1: Recent five year Incidental Take requests for the North Atlantic Right Whale (NARW)
Variable Vineyard
Wind

Ocean
Wind 1

Coastal
Virginia
Marwin/
Momentum Wind
LOA Date 5/1/2023 11/25/2022 Current Current
NARW Take Request 20 14 23 6
NARW Population Estimate 394 368 346 338
Maximum Estimated NARW
Presence Month Construction
Allowed

June December May November

Maximum Estimated NARW
Presence/100KM2 during construction

0.308 0.045 0.015 0.011

Maximum presence during construction
compared to Marwin/Momentum Wind

28 X 4 X 1.4 X -

Estimated Presence Version Used 2017 2022 2022 2022
Source of population density: Roberts and Halpin, Duke University, the Northeast Regional Planning Body,
the University of North Carolina Wilmington, the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center, and
NOAA Habitat-based Marine Mammal Density Models for the U.S. Atlantic: Latest Versions (duke.edu**)**
The agencies have approved recent projects without establishing a maximum allowed monthly estimated density of critically endangered NARW in the months construction is allowed. Allowed densities
vary by a 28 fold difference, and there is no standard for the version of the source data used. This application gives an estimate of NARW population as 338 animals but each of the other projects uses a
higher and different estimate from 346 to 394 animals. NMFS/NOAA should establish a NARW population
number to be used in all applications, and a maximum allowed estimated population density for the months
construction is allowed. No LOAs should be issued until these standards are met.
NMFSs' consideration of incidental take during wind turbine operation is insufficient
During construction dozens of mitigation steps are required to protect NARWs. The US Wind application allowing incidental take covers the period from January, 2025, through December, 2029, with
construction completed by 2027 with partial operation as soon as 2025. This means the application will also
cover incidental take during operation of the wind turbines. As a critically endangered species, the impacts
on the NARW are of greatest concern. There are several potential impacts on the whales from high noise
levels during construction:
1) Exposure of marine mammals to sound sources can result in, but is not limited to, no response or any
of the following observable responses: increased alertness; orientation or attraction to a sound source;
vocal modifications; cessation of feeding; cessation of social interaction; alteration of movement or
diving behavior; habitat abandonment (temporary or permanent); and in severe cases, panic, flight,
stampede, or stranding, potentially resulting in death

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Lewes, DE 19958
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2) Avoidance is the displacement of an individual from an area or migration path as a result of the presence of a sound or other stressors and is one of the most obvious manifestations of disturbance in
marine mammals. NARW tend to swim and feed near the water surface where zooplankton is abundant, putting them at increased risk of vessel collision (Mayo and Marx 1990; Baumgartner, M.F., et al. 2017; Parks et al. 2012). There is a high potential of vessel strikes as whales avoid noise

**harassment by leaving or avoiding a lease area and head into high traffic shipping lanes. See the map
below showing the shipping lane abutting the project**

**3) Behavioral change, such as disturbance manifesting in lost foraging time, in response to anthropogenic activities is often assumed to indicate a biologically significant effect on a population
of concern. Five out of six North Atlantic right whales exposed to an acoustic alarm interrupted their
foraging dives (Nowacek et al., 2004).**
**4) Sound can disrupt behavior through masking, or interfering with, an animal's ability to detect, recognize, or discriminate between acoustic signals of interest. North Atlantic right whales have been
observed to shift the frequency content of their calls upward while reducing the rate of calling in areas of increased anthropogenic noise (Parks et al., 2007)**

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PO Box 18
Lewes, DE 19958
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**5) Sound can induce stress. Rolland et al. (2012) found that noise reduction from reduced ship traffic in
the Bay of Fundy was associated with decreased stress in North Atlantic right whales. Correspondingly, increased noise levels can be expected to increase stress diverting energy from other functions**
**6) Sound may affect marine mammals through impacts on the abundance, behavior, or distribution of
prey species (e.g., crustaceans, cephalopods, fish, and zooplankton). The presence and operation of
structures such as wind turbines are, in general, likely to result in local and broader oceanographic
effects in the marine environment and may disrupt marine mammal prey, such as dense aggregations
and distribution of zooplankton.**
**7) Vessel collisions with marine mammals, also referred to as vessel strikes or ship strikes, can result in
death or serious injury of the animal. Wounds resulting from ship strike may include massive trauma,
hemorrhaging, broken bones, or propeller lacerations. US Wind expects at least 823 vessel trips/year
during operation.**
**US Wind did not request and NMFS is not proposing to authorize take incidental to operation noise. The
same potential harmful impacts described above during construction could exist during operation with the
primary difference operational noise will be nearly continuous for decades. No turbines approaching the size
of the up to 18 megawatt turbines planned for this project have been built in the ocean anywhere on the
globe. A study by Stöber and Thomsen (2021) estimated the operational noise from the larger,**

**more recent
generation of direct-drive wind turbines. Their findings demonstrated noise levels could be up to 170 to 177
dB for a 10 megawatt turbine. Furthermore, noise levels where likely to diminish to NOAA Level B harassment levels of 120 dB at about 0.9 miles away from the turbine. Since planned turbine spacing is only
on a 0.9 by 1.2 mile grid, noise levels will likely significantly exceed Level B harassment limits throughout
the project area and for one mile beyond the project area. (Journal of the Acoustical Society, "How could
operational underwater sound from future offshore wind turbines impact marine life?", Uwe Stöber and Frank Thomsen,** https://asa.scitation.org/doi/abs/10.1121/10.0003760?journalCode=jas **)
In addition to the above mentioned concerns, the US Wind application states "NARW's require extremely dense patches of zooplankton to feed efficiently". Also stated is the fact average length of
NARWs has decreased 7.3% over the period 1981-2019. Smaller size can impact breeding and nursing.
Broad scale hydrodynamic impacts could alter zooplankton distribution and abundance by greater mixing
(van Berkel et al. 2020). US Wind admits in their application, "If the presence of Project structures causes a
change in ocean circulation, it may cause marine mammals to shift their foraging grounds to account for
shifting distributions of prey species."
As reported in the application, "Abundance estimates, Potential Biological Removal (PBR) values, and
Annual Mortality/Serious Injury (M/SI) values were sourced from the most recent NOAA Marine Mammal
Stock Assessment Report issued for each species and stock (88 FR 4162, Hayes et al. 2022, 2021, 2020,
2019; Waring et al. 2015). PBR is defined by the MMPA as the maximum number of animals, not including
natural mortalities, that may be removed from a marine mammal stock while allowing that stock to reach or
maintain its optimum sustainable population. Annual M/SI values represent annual levels of human-caused**

**Caesar Rodney Institute
Center for Energy & Environment**

**PO Box 18
Lewes, DE 19958**
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**mortality plus serious injury from all sources combined (e.g., commercial fisheries, ship strike)." The
NARW PBR estimate given in Table 3.1 is 0.7 while the M/SI value is 8.1. NARW are currently experiencing an unusual mortality event (UME); elevated numbers of dead or seriously injured NARW have
been recorded in Canada and the United States since 2017 (NOAA Fisheries 2023a). Throughout this time
period, 35 NARW deaths have been reported, as well as 22 serious injuries, and 37 sub-lethal injuries and**

illnesses (NOAA Fisheries 2023a). In the period of 2016-2020, incidental fishery entanglement mortality and serious injury averaged 5.7 individuals per year, and vessel strike mortality and serious injury averaged 2.4 individuals per year (88 FR 4162). This means, with no impact from the US Wind project, expected NARW deaths already exceed the level needed to maintain NARW stock. NMFS should not be approving any offshore wind activity that may further impact the NARW.

Clearly, operational noise poses a serious, and even potentially deadly threat and could result in NARW extinctions. No LOA should be issued until at least one of the planned 18 MW turbines is actually built in the ocean with sound levels measured and reported accurately. Building the project with sound measured only after project is built is unacceptable.

NMFS has failed to consider the cumulative impact from the numerous LOAs issued in active NARW habitat

The Harassment Permit analysis does not assess cumulative impacts on the affected marine mammals. Instead, it treats the Project as if it were to be installed and operated in a vacuum, where no other impacts exists. In reality the project is adjacent to the Skipjack 1 and 2 Projects, and the Garden State project, and not far from multiple projects off the southern New Jersey coast. All of these projects may be simultaneously be under construction, and will certainly be operational at the same time. Marine mammals avoiding the Marwin and Momentum Wind projects may simply wander into another project and across multiple shipping channels adding to stress and confusion greatly increasing the potential for vessel strikes and entanglement. See the below maps of vessel paths to the north of the Maryland project. NMFS is ignoring this issue. No project should receive a LOA until this cumulative effect is fully considered.

6

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Conclusion

The US Wind request for a LOA, and NMFS consultation on the request is seriously flawed and incomplete. The request should be denied.

David T. Stevenson
Director, Center for Energy & Environment
Caesar Rodney Institute
e-mail: DavidStevenson@CaesarRodney.org
John Donofrio

donofrio.john@gmail.com
734 255 2525 (mobile)

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Off shore wind

1 message

Chuck Dougherty <cbdpd4@verizon.net> Mon, May 29, 2023 at 5:11 PM
To: "ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov" <ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov>
Cc: Richard Cronin <richard.f.cronin@gmail.com>, David Stevenson <davidstevenson1948@gmail.com>

I am opposed to installing wind turbines of the Delaware and Maryland shore. I fear for the whales and other inhabitants of the sea. And the cost, no matter what is currently estimated for these facilities will be fall into the typical pattern and will be at least twice the original number if installed.

Charles Dougherty

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

wind farm comments due tomorrow June 1st

2 messages

loriearley34@gmail.com <loriearley34@gmail.com> Wed, May 31, 2023 at 2:12 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

We agree with the below assessment of DavidStevenson@CaesarRodney.org. We believe the the US Wind request for a Letter of authorization, and NMFS consultation on the request is seriously flawed and incomplete. The request should be denied.

David and Lori Earley

302-234-1184

Loriearley34@gmail.com

1 Caesar Rodney Institute Center for Energy & Environment PO Box 18 Lewes, DE 19958 WWW.CaesarRodney.org Jolie Harrison, Chief Permits & Conservation Division June 1, 2023 Office of Protective Resources, NMFS 1315 East-west Highway Silver Spring, MD 20910 Public Comments on US Wind Application for Letter of Authorization under the Marine Mammal Protection Act for the Maryland Offshore Wind Project in Document 2023-09194 As stated in the Federal register, “An incidental take authorization shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth. NMFS has defined “negligible impact” in 50 CFR 216.103 as an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival. the MMPA defines “harassment” as: any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance, which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (Level A harassment); or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (Level B harassment)”. By these measures US Wind has failed to meet these standards especially for the Critically Endangered North Atlantic right whale (NARW) and their application should be rejected for the following reasons: • NMFS has established no standards for determining maximum estimated marine mammal abundances allowed in a month when construction will occur • NMFS has not established what version of estimated population abundances should be used • NMFS has not established the current abundance of NARWs • No LOA should be issued until at least one of the planned 18 MW turbines is actually built in the ocean with sound levels measured and reported accurately • No project should receive a LOA until this cumulative effect is fully considered • The projects have not been approved yet, or completed the Environmental Impact Statement Process • With no impact from the US Wind project, expected NARW deaths already exceed the level needed to maintain NARW stock. NMFS should not be approving any offshore wind activity that may further impact the NARW. NMFS/NOAA allows applicants to determine protected mammal abundance in an arbitrary and capricious manor The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) along with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) have issued numerous Letters of Authorization (LOA) for incidental take of marine mammals by offshore wind development companies consulting with the applicants during the application and approval process. The agencies have established take limits using species stock estimates and expected 2 Caesar Rodney Institute Center for Energy & Environment PO Box 18 Lewes, DE 19958 WWW.CaesarRodney.org species densities in subject lease areas in an arbitrary and capricious manor. Consider two recent LOAs to the current Maryland Offshore Wind Project application in the Table below. Table 1: Recent five year Incidental Take requests for the North Atlantic Right Whale (NARW) Variable Vineyard Wind Ocean Wind 1 Coastal Virginia Marwin/ Momentum Wind LOA Date 5/1/2023 11/25/2022 Current Current NARW Take Request 20 14 23 6 NARW Population Estimate 394 368 346 338 Maximum Estimated NARW Presence Month Construction Allowed June December May November Maximum Estimated NARW Presence/100KM2 during construction 0.308 0.045 0.015 0.011 Maximum presence during construction compared to Marwin/Momentum Wind 28 X 4 X 1.4 X - Estimated Presence Version Used 2017 2022 2022 2022 Source of population density: Roberts and Halpin, Duke University, the Northeast Regional Planning Body, the University of North Carolina Wilmington, the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center, and NOAA Habitat-based Marine Mammal Density Models for the U.S. Atlantic: Latest Versions (duke.edu) The agencies

have approved recent projects without establishing a maximum allowed monthly estimated density of critically endangered NARW in the months construction is allowed. Allowed densities vary by a 28 fold difference, and there is no standard for the version of the source data used. This application gives an estimate of NARW population as 338 animals but each of the other projects uses a higher and different estimate from 346 to 394 animals. NMFS/NOAA should establish a NARW population number to be used in all applications, and a maximum allowed estimated population density for the months construction is allowed. No LOAs should be issued until these standards are met. NMFSs' consideration of incidental take during wind turbine operation is insufficient During construction dozens of mitigation steps are required to protect NARWs. The US Wind application allowing incidental take covers the period from January, 2025, through December, 2029, with construction completed by 2027 with partial operation as soon as 2025. This means the application will also cover incidental take during operation of the wind turbines. As a critically endangered species, the impacts on the NARW are of greatest concern. There are several potential impacts on the whales from high noise levels during construction: 1) Exposure of marine mammals to sound sources can result in, but is not limited to, no response or any of the following observable responses: increased alertness; orientation or attraction to a sound source; vocal modifications; cessation of feeding; cessation of social interaction; alteration of movement or diving behavior; habitat abandonment (temporary or permanent); and in severe cases, panic, flight, stampede, or stranding, potentially resulting in death 3 Caesar Rodney Institute Center for Energy & Environment PO Box 18 Lewes, DE 19958 WWW.CaesarRodney.org 2) Avoidance is the displacement of an individual from an area or migration path as a result of the presence of a sound or other stressors and is one of the most obvious manifestations of disturbance in marine mammals. NARW tend to swim and feed near the water surface where zooplankton is abundant, putting them at increased risk of vessel collision (Mayo and Marx 1990; Baumgartner, M.F., et al. 2017; Parks et al. 2012). There is a high potential of vessel strikes as whales avoid noise harassment by leaving or avoiding a lease area and head into high traffic shipping lanes. See the map below showing the shipping lane abutting the project 3) Behavioral change, such as disturbance manifesting in lost foraging time, in response to anthropogenic activities is often assumed to indicate a biologically significant effect on a population of concern. Five out of six North Atlantic right whales exposed to an acoustic alarm interrupted their foraging dives (Nowacek et al., 2004). 4) Sound can disrupt behavior through masking, or interfering with, an animal's ability to detect, recognize, or discriminate between acoustic signals of interest. North Atlantic right whales have been observed to shift the frequency content of their calls upward while reducing the rate of calling in areas of increased anthropogenic noise (Parks et al., 2007) 4 Caesar Rodney Institute Center for Energy & Environment PO Box 18 Lewes, DE 19958 WWW.CaesarRodney.org 5) Sound can induce stress. Rolland et al. (2012) found that noise reduction from reduced ship traffic in the Bay of Fundy was associated with decreased stress in North Atlantic right whales. Correspondingly, increased noise levels can be expected to increase stress diverting energy from other functions 6) Sound may affect marine mammals through impacts on the abundance, behavior, or distribution of prey species (e.g., crustaceans, cephalopods, fish, and zooplankton). The presence and operation of structures such as wind turbines are, in general, likely to result in local and broader oceanographic effects in the marine environment and may disrupt marine mammal prey, such as dense aggregations and distribution of zooplankton. 7) Vessel collisions with marine mammals, also referred to as vessel strikes or ship strikes, can result in death or serious injury of the animal. Wounds resulting from ship strike may include massive trauma, hemorrhaging, broken bones, or propeller lacerations. US Wind expects at least 823 vessel trips/year during operation. US Wind did not request and NMFS is not proposing to authorize take incidental to operation noise. The same potential harmful impacts described above during construction could exist during operation with the primary difference operational noise will be nearly continuous for decades. No turbines approaching the size of the up to 18 megawatt turbines planned for this project have been built in the ocean anywhere on the globe. A study by Stöber and Thomsen (2021) estimated the operational noise from the larger, more recent generation of direct-drive wind turbines. Their findings demonstrated noise levels could be up to 170 to 177 dB for a 10 megawatt turbine. Furthermore, noise levels where likely to diminish to NOAA Level B harassment levels of 120 dB at about 0.9 miles away from the turbine. Since planned turbine spacing is only on a 0.9 by 1.2 mile grid, noise levels will likely significantly exceed Level B harassment limits throughout the project area and for one mile beyond the project area. (Journal of the Acoustical Society, "How could operational underwater sound from future offshore wind turbines impact marine life?", Uwe Stöber and Frank Thomsen, https://asa.scitation.org/doi/abs/10.1121/10.0003760?journalCode=jas) In addition to the above mentioned concerns, the US Wind application states "NARW's require extremely dense patches of zooplankton to feed efficiently". Also stated is the fact average length of NARWs has decreased 7.3% over the period 1981-2019. Smaller size can impact breeding and nursing. Broad scale hydrodynamic impacts could alter zooplankton distribution and abundance by greater mixing (van Berkel et al. 2020). US Wind admits in their application, "If the presence of Project structures causes a change in ocean circulation, it may cause marine mammals to shift their foraging grounds to account for shifting distributions of prey species." As reported in the application, "Abundance estimates, Potential Biological Removal (PBR) values, and Annual Mortality/Serious Injury (M/SI) values were sourced from the most recent NOAA Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Report issued for each species and stock (88 FR 4162, Hayes et al. 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019; Waring et al. 2015). PBR is defined by the MMPA as the maximum number of animals, not including natural mortalities, that may be removed from a marine mammal stock while allowing that stock to reach or maintain its optimum sustainable population. Annual M/SI values represent annual levels of human-caused 5 Caesar Rodney Institute Center for Energy & Environment PO Box 18 Lewes, DE 19958 WWW.CaesarRodney.org mortality plus serious injury from all sources combined (e.g., commercial fisheries, ship strike)." The NARW PBR estimate given in Table 3.1 is 0.7 while the M/SI value is 8.1. NARW are currently experiencing an unusual mortality event (UME); elevated numbers of dead or seriously injured NARW have been recorded in Canada and the United States since 2017 (NOAA Fisheries 2023a). Throughout this time period, 35 NARW deaths have been reported, as well as 22 serious injuries, and 37 sub-lethal injuries and illnesses (NOAA Fisheries 2023a). In the period of 2016-2020, incidental fishery entanglement mortality and serious injury

averaged 5.7 individuals per year, and vessel strike mortality and serious injury averaged 2.4 individuals per year (88 FR 4162). This means, with no impact from the US Wind project, expected NARW deaths already exceed the level needed to maintain NARW stock. NMFS should not be approving any offshore wind activity that may further impact the NARW. Clearly, operational noise poses a serious, and even potentially deadly threat and could result in NARW extinctions. No LOA should be issued until at least one of the planned 18 MW turbines is actually built in the ocean with sound levels measured and reported accurately. Building the project with sound measured only after project is built is unacceptable. NMFS has failed to consider the cumulative impact from the numerous LOAs issued in active NARW habitat The Harassment Permit analysis does not assess cumulative impacts on the affected marine mammals. Instead, it treats the Project as if it were to be installed and operated in a vacuum, where no other impacts exists. In reality the project is adjacent to the Skipjack 1 and 2 Projects, and the Garden State project, and not far from multiple projects off the southern New Jersey coast. All of these projects may be simultaneously be under construction, and will certainly be operational at the same time. Marine mammals avoiding the Marwin and Momentum Wind projects may simply wander into another project and across multiple shipping channels adding to stress and confusion greatly increasing the potential for vessel strikes and entanglement. See the below maps of vessel paths to the north of the Maryland project. NMFS is ignoring this issue. No project should receive a LOA until this cumulative effect is fully considered. 6 Caesar Rodney Institute Center for Energy & Environment PO Box 18 Lewes, DE 19958 WWW.CaesarRodney.org Conclusion The US Wind request for a LOA, and NMFS consultation on the request is seriously flawed and incomplete. The request should be denied. David T. Stevenson Director, Center for Energy & Environment Caesar Rodney Institute e-mail: DavidStevenson@CaesarRodney.org

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Jill Crouse <jillanncro@gmail.com> Wed, May 31, 2023 at 2:24 PM
To: Block Wind <ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov>
Cc: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov, William Crouse <wcrouse@icloud.com>

Sent from my iPhone

> On May 31, 2023, at 2:12 PM, loriearley34@gmail.com wrote:
>
> We agree with the below assessment of DavidStevenson@CaesarRodney.org. We believe the the US Wind request for a Letter of authorization, and NMFS consultation on the request is seriously flawed and incomplete. The request should be denied.
>
> William David and Jill Ann Crouse
>
> 302-540-5608

jillanncro@gmail.com
[Quoted text hidden]

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Wind farms Delaware

1 message

JOHN EKLUND <prestonspharm@aol.com> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 7:43 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

I oppose the offshore wind farm that is proposed off the shores of Delaware. It does nothing for Delaware residents, it will enrich European companies and decimate the environment, especially for the whales.
Stop this foolish project.
John EKLUND
39619 N Gulls Way Ct
Bethany Beach, De

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

DE and MD Windfarm development - distance from shore comments

2 messages

D <dcexplore@gmail.com> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 7:31 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

As a resident of Bethany Beach DE, I am writing to comment on the wind farm project proposed by US Wind and Orsted.

My wife and I are opposed to wind farm development or wind turbines that are visible from the coast. The current proposals and public information is unclear as to the distance from shore or turbine plans. However, it appears that some proposals include the turbines as close as 12 to 15 miles offshore. This would be visible, and our research says that the farm would need to be no closer than 35 miles from shore to not impact the shoreliine view. I have personal experience with living within 20 miles of wind turbines. They can be seen during clear days and the lights can be easily seen at night. If we want to have an industrialized coastline, locating these farms closer than 35 miles from shore will give this appearance.

We view the coastal waters as a natural resource that should be protected from industrial development. Bethany Beach in particular has strict zoning codes preventing industrial development, yet the main resource for the area is now under threat with visual industrial development in the waters off shore.

Further, these farms pose a threat to wildlife migration and navigation. Both proposals appear overly dense as well as oversized for the protection of wildlife migration and navigation.

If cost is the main consideration for locating the wind turbines so close to shore, then the environmental cost, as well as the subsidized building cost should be increased to mitigate the effect on the hundreds of thousands of people that will be effected by locating these turbines so close to shore and as densely as planned. The federal lease areas should be reconsidered and updated to reduce shoreline impacts, moving permitted building significantly farther away from shorelines and utilizing lower density and lower impact (smaller size and low accustic) technology.

Please reconsider approval of any farm development that is closer than 35 miles from shore.

Thank You,
David and Paige Young
Pineshore Drive
Bethany Beach, DE

dcexplore@gmail.com <dcexplore@gmail.com> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 10:14 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

Redacting Paige's name as added by misstake.

Sent from my iPhone

> On May 30, 2023, at 7:31 PM, D <dcexplore@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> As a resident of Bethany Beach DE, I am writing to comment on the wind farm project proposed by US Wind and Orsted.
>
> My wife and I are opposed to wind farm development or wind turbines that are visible from the coast. The current proposals and public information is unclear as to the distance from shore or turbine plans. However, it appears that some proposals include the turbines as close as 12 to 15 miles offshore. This would be visible, and our research says that the farm would need to be no closer than 35 miles from shore to not impact the shoreliine view. I have personal experience with living within 20 miles of wind turbines. They can be seen during clear days and the lights can be easily seen at night. If we want to have an industrialized coastline, locating these farms closer than 35 miles from shore will give this appearance.
>
> We view the coastal waters as a natural resource that should be protected from industrial development. Bethany Beach in particular has strict zoning codes preventing industrial development, yet the main resource for the area is now under threat with visual industrial development in the waters off shore.
>
> Further, these farms pose a threat to wildlife migration and navigation. Both proposals appear overly dense as well as oversized for the protection of wildlife migration and navigation.
>
> If cost is the main consideration for locating the wind turbines so close to shore, then the environmental cost, as well as the subsidized building cost should be increased to mitigate the effect on the hundreds of thousands of people that will be effected by locating these turbines so close to shore and as densely as planned. The federal lease areas should be reconsidered and updated to reduce shoreline impacts, moving permitted building significantly farther away from shorelines and utilizing lower density and lower impact (smaller size and low accustic) technology.
>
> Please reconsider approval of any farm development that is closer than 35 miles from shore.
>
> Thank You,
> David Young
[Quoted text hidden]

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Offshore Wind Farm

1 message

Johnie <jgombo@cox.net> Mon, May 29, 2023 at 6:28 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

Concur with your letter. One question. Does"take" = "kill"? If not, what does it mean?

Johnie Gombo
Jgombo@cox.net

Sent from my iPad

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Wind Mills are failing/falling all over the World

2 messages

Dave Gordon <da.gordon77@gmail.com> Thu, Jun 1, 2023 at 1:31 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov, DavidStevenson@caesarrodney.org, "Board@SeaColony.com" <board@seacolony.com>

Here are just a small list of FALLING WINDMILLS

Paxton, Illinois

Butler Ridge Wind Farm in Dodge County in Wisconsin

Webster County Iowa

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Fleming in Logan County, Colorado

Cheyenne, Wyoming

Elkton, Michigan

Nova Scotia, Canada

Lithuania, Germany

Please feel free to google more sites of failing/falling windmills.

Regards

David A. Gordon

Dave Gordon <da.gordon77@gmail.com> Thu, Jun 1, 2023 at 2:27 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov, DavidStevenson@caesarrodney.org, "Board@SeaColony.com" <board@seacolony.com>

Here are a few more locations located around the world, where windmill farms are failing/falling.

Hornsea Windfarm

Nordtank(Vestas).

New Brunswick, Canada Kent Hills Wind Farm

Leelanau County Northport, Michigan

Klickitat County, Washington

Falmouth, Mass

Biglow County Portland, Oregon

Regards

David A. Gordon

[Quoted text hidden]

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Fwd: Opposition is Growing for Proposed Windmill Farms off Delaware Shores

2 messages

Dave Gordon <da.gordon77@gmail.com> Thu, Jun 1, 2023 at 12:43 PM
To: "itp.taylor@noaa.gov" <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>, DavidStevenson@caesarrodney.org

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Dave Gordon** <da.gordon77@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Sep 6, 2022 at 5:53 PM
Subject: Fwd: Opposition is Growing for Proposed Windmill Farms off Delaware Shores
To: <karen.mcgrath@go.com>, <Karenm@bethany-fenwick.org>, <info@bethany-fenwick.org>, <klmcgrath@earthlink.com>

Karen

Please send these emails to Senator Tom Carper.

Thank you.

David A. Gordon

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Dave Gordon** <da.gordon77@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Jul 8, 2022 at 6:50 PM
Subject: Fwd: Opposition is Growing for Proposed Windmill Farms off Delaware Shores
To: Stan Mills <smills@cityofrehoboth.com>, <pgossett@cityofrehoboth.com>, <pschuchman@fenwick.org>, <townclerk@fenwick.org>, <admin@townofbethanybeach.com>, <sbmayor@southbethany.org>

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Dave Gordon** <da.gordon77@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Jul 6, 2022 at 5:20 PM
Subject: Opposition is Growing for Proposed Windmill Farms off Delaware Shores
To: <Krista_Brady@coons.senate.gov>, <congresswoman.bluntrochester@mail.house.gov>, Carney, John (MailBox Resources) <John.Carney@delaware.gov>, Hall-Long, Bethany (Lt Governor) <Bethany.Hall-Long@delaware.gov>, <doug.hudson@sussexcountyde.gov>, Lopez, Ernesto B (LegHall) <Ernesto.Lopez@delaware.gov>, Hocker, Gerald (LegHall) <Gerald.Hocker@delaware.gov>, Gray, Ronald (LegHall) <Ronald.Gray@delaware.gov>, Schwartzkopf, Peter (LegHall) <Peter.Schwartzkopf@delaware.gov>, BriggsKing, Ruth (LegHall) <Ruth.BriggsKing@delaware.gov>, Meyer, Matthew <Matthew.Meyer@newcastlede.gov>
Cc: Andrew S. Johnston -PSC- <Andrew.Johnston@maryland.gov>, Sokola, David (LegHall) <David.Sokola@delaware.gov>, <skipjack@us.orsted.com>, <DelawareAudubun@gmail.com>, Longhurst, Valerie (LegHall) <Valerie.Longhurst@delaware.gov>, <media@audubon.org>, <michael.costello@sussexcountyde.gov>, <michael.globetti@delaware.gov>, Smith, Michael (LegHall) <Michael.F.Smith@delaware.gov>, Ramone, Michael (LegHall) <Michael.Ramone@delaware.gov>, Bennett, Andria (LegHall) <andria.bennett@delaware.gov>, Jamison, Alexis F (LegHall) <Alexis.F.Jamison@delaware.gov>, Bryan Townsend <bryan.townsend@gmail.com>, <csharp@coastdispatch.com>, <editor@mdcoastdispatch.com>, Osienski, Edward (LegHall) <Edward.Osienski@delaware.gov>, Cooke, Franklin D (LegHall) <FranklinD.Cooke@delaware.gov>, Michelle Freeman <mfreeman@cmfa.com>, Walsh, John (LegHall) <John.Walsh@delaware.gov>, Newsroom <newsroom@capegazette.com>, <newshub@delmarvanow.com>, <newsroomeditor@mdcoastaldispatch.com>, Paradee, Trey (LegHall) <Trey.Paradee@delaware.gov>, Shupe, Bryan (LegHall) <Bryan.Shupe@delaware.gov>, Richardson, Bryant L (LegHall) <Bryant.Richardson@delaware.gov>, Ennis, Bruce (LegHall) <Bruce.Ennis@delaware.gov>, Sturgeon, Laura (LegHall) <Laura.Sturgeon@delaware.gov>, Hensley, Kevin S (LegHall)

<Kevin.Hensley@delaware.gov>, <Kevin.Donnelly@delaware.gov>, Poore, Nicole (LegHall) <Nicole.Poore@delaware.gov>, Majeski, Nicole (DelDOT) <Nicole.Majeski@delaware.gov>, <bush29th@gmail.com>, Bolden, StephanieT (LegHall) <StephanieT.Bolden@delaware.gov>, <Stephanie.Hansen@state.de.us>, Pettyjohn, Brian (LegHall) <Brian.Pettyjohn@delaware.gov>, <grolfe@newszap.com>, Morris, Shannon (LegHall) <Shannon.Morris@delaware.gov>, DorseyWalker, Sherry (LegHall) <Sherry.DorseyWalker@delaware.gov>, Dukes, Timothy (LegHall) <Timothy.Dukes@delaware.gov>, Lynn, Sean M (LegHall) <Sean.Lynn@delaware.gov>, Yearick, Lyndon D (LegHall) <Lyndon.Yearick@delaware.gov>, Revel, Matthew (LegHall) <Matthew.Revel@state.de.us>, Carson, William (LegHall) <William.Carson@delaware.gov>, Wilson, David L (LegHall) <David.L.Wilson@delaware.gov>, <Jesse.Vanderwende@state.de.us>, <shauna.mcvey@delaware.gov>, Short, Daniel (LegHall) <Daniel.Short@delaware.gov>, Postles, Charles (LegHall) <Charles.Postles@delaware.gov>, Smyk, Steve (LegHall) <Steve.Smyk@delaware.gov>, <matthew.Ritter@delaware.gov>, <Dawn.Hopkins@delaware.gov>, <debra.hefferman@state.de.us>, Susan E. Howard -PSC- <Susan.Howard@maryland.gov>

Hello Everyone

There seems to be more and more stories floating around down at the Delaware Beaches about the future of "Green Energy" and how to accomplish it through Windmills, Solar Panels, Electric Cars,Trucks and Buses, etc.

We need a lot more information before we should ever consider jumping in and building windmills in the Ocean off of our Shoreline.

Can we get our State Leaders(Senator Tom Carper, Senator Chris Coons, Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester, Governor John Carney) and some of the local Reps(Gerald Hocker,Ronald Gray, Pete Schwartkopf, Ernie Lopez,and Doug Hudson), in the Beach area, put some type of effort to help all of the Beach Homeowners and Business' better understand where we are at and where are we heading? While doing so can we get some answers that I have previously have sent to some of you on this email list? Below are just some of my questions and perhaps many others may have:

How many Windmills will there be built off the entire Delaware Beach Line from Lewes to Fenwick Island?

What is the height of these Windmills? Some stories have reported that they will be higher than the Washington Monument.

How many years will it take to completely install the Proposed Windmills and the cables to get the new Electrical Grid System up and running and beaches restored completely?

Will the Beach goers and the Homeowners see the windmills?

If the High Voltage cables come on shore in Delaware, how long will the Beaches be shut down from use?

What type of materials will the bases for the Windmills be made from? Steel & concrete? Wood from pilings?

How deep will the bases be for the Windmills? What will the contractors do with the excess materials left over from the boring, drilling, etc. This seems to me that it would a Highly Disturbed Environmental issue.

How deep will the High Voltage Cables be buried in the Ocean?

How will traffic be affected on Coastal Highway when construction of the High Voltage Cables are placed under the beaches as well as Ocean Highway?

What hours will the contractors work while drilling or driving pilings? This could be a VERY NOISY PROCESS, that echos all of the Ocean. How noisy will this be? Think about how many years this could take place.

How much will it average to build one windmill off the Delaware Beaches and what will the total cost for all of the windmills just in Delaware?

Who is paying for this project and will the consumer get a price break from their electric bills? Wii the end users/consumers going to save money or lose money each month if they build these Wind Farms?

Will the consumers be charged a fee on top of their electric bill to help pay for this project?

Who can guarantee this design will work and save the World? Bloom Energy has been and continues to be a failure and yet we continue to pay for it. Atomic Energy didn't work. Nuclear Energy didn't work. There are other plans that haven't worked either. Those planners had big aspirations to save the planet as well and help create more high paying jobs, as well. The Big Automobile Makers promised more energy efficient cars and more cars that would burn less emissions, ever

since Lee Iacocca was given all of the money in the world to save those jobs at Chrysler. I caution everyone to take this idea(Windmill Farms) and slow the process down and get the facts before ever letting this failure to start.

Can we trust the contractors to have the resources to start and complete this project? Since this type of project has never been built, how do we know it will work? How do we know if the contractor will ever finish the job/

Will Hurricanes affect these types of Windmills?

How many bidders will be able to financially be able to perform this type of project? How do we know if we got a fair bid?

If one windmill were to fail due to whatever(defective craftsmanship, sabotage, hurricane, tornado, war ship, or war planes, fishing boat, planes, barges or any other ship), will there be a major power outage for months and months?

Todays cliche is "CLEAN ENERGY" ,but does it work? Is it worth it? Is it not worth it??

Give it as much time to prove in your mind and my mind that we all doing this for the right reason.

In GODS' name I hope we do the ';RIGHT" thing.

Regards

David A. Gordon

Dave Gordon <da.gordon77@gmail.com> Thu, Jun 1, 2023 at 12:45 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov, DavidStevenson@caesarrodney.org, "Board@SeaColony.com" <board@seacolony.com>

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Dave Gordon** <da.gordon77@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Sep 6, 2022 at 5:48 PM
Subject: Fwd: Opposition is Growing for Proposed Windmill Farms off Delaware Shores
To: <Karenm@bethany-fenwick.org>, <info@betnay-fenwick.org>, <karen.mcgrath@go.com>, <klmcgrath@earthlink.com>

Hi Karen

I'm going to send several email messages to you in hopes that you will let Senator Tom Carper read and perhaps send me some responses.

Regards

David A. Gordon
1 Edgebrooke Way
Newark, Delaware 19702

David A. Gordon
8603 Racquet Lane Phase X
Sea Colony West
[Quoted text hidden]

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Fwd: Opposition is Growing for proposed Windmill Farms off Delaware Shore

1 message

Dave Gordon <da.gordon77@gmail.com> Thu, Jun 1, 2023 at 12:44 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov, DavidStevenson@caesarrodney.org, "Board@SeaColony.com" <board@seacolony.com>

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Dave Gordon** <da.gordon77@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Sep 6, 2022 at 5:51 PM
Subject: Fwd: Opposition is Growing for proposed Windmill Farms off Delaware Shore
To: <karen.mcgrath@go.com>, <info@bethany-fenwick.org>, <klmcgrath@earthlink.com>

Karen

Please forward these emails to Senator Tom Carper for his comments.

Thank you.

David A. Gordon

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Dave Gordon** <da.gordon77@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Aug 22, 2022 at 8:18 PM
Subject: Re: Opposition is Growing for proposed Windmill Farms off Delaware Shore
To: Carney, John (MailBox Resources) <John.Carney@delaware.gov>, Hall-Long, Bethany (Lt Governor) <Bethany.Hall-Long@delaware.gov>, <Krista_Brady@coons.senate.gov>, <congresswoman.bluntrochester@mail.house.gov>, Meyer, Matthew <Matthew.Meyer@newcastlede.gov>
Cc: Kowalko, John (LegHall) <John.Kowalko@delaware.gov>, Osienski, Edward (LegHall) <Edward.Osienski@delaware.gov>, Lopez, Ernesto B (LegHall) <Ernesto.Lopez@delaware.gov>, Gray, Ronald (LegHall) <Ronald.Gray@delaware.gov>, Hocker, Gerald (LegHall) <Gerald.Hocker@delaware.gov>, Wilson, David L (LegHall) <David.L.Wilson@delaware.gov>, Bryan Townsend <bryan.townsend@gmail.com>, Walsh, John (LegHall) <John.Walsh@delaware.gov>, Longhurst, Valerie (LegHall) <Valerie.Longhurst@delaware.gov>, Sokola, David (LegHall) <David.Sokola@delaware.gov>, <doug.hudson@sussexcountyde.gov>, Short, Daniel (LegHall) <Daniel.Short@delaware.gov>, Poore, Nicole (LegHall) <Nicole.Poore@delaware.gov>, McCartan, Valerie (LegHall) <Valerie.McCartan@delaware.gov>, Ramone, Michael (LegHall) <Michael.Ramone@delaware.gov>, Smith, Michael (LegHall) <Michael.F.Smith@delaware.gov>, <senator-colin@prodigy.net>, Ennis, Bruce (LegHall) <Bruce.Ennis@delaware.gov>, Lynn, Sean M (LegHall) <Sean.Lynn@delaware.gov>, Matthews, Sean (LegHall) <Sean.Matthews@delaware.gov>, Hensley, Kevin S (LegHall) <Kevin.Hensley@delaware.gov>, <shauna.mcvey@delaware.gov>, <Michael.Krumrine@delaware.gov>, <michael.globetti@delaware.gov>, Yearick, Lyndon D (LegHall) <Lyndon.Yearick@delaware.gov>, Dukes, Timothy (LegHall) <Timothy.Dukes@delaware.gov>, <Kevin.Donnelly@delaware.gov>, Mitchell, John L (LegHall) <John.L.Mitchell@delaware.gov>, Jamison, Alexis F (LegHall) <Alexis.F.Jamison@delaware.gov>, Postles, Charles (LegHall) <Charles.Postles@delaware.gov>, DorseyWalker, Sherry (LegHall) <Sherry.DorseyWalker@delaware.gov>, Smyk, Steve (LegHall) <Steve.Smyk@delaware.gov>, <Jesse.Vanderwende@state.de.us>, Revel, Matthew (LegHall) <Matthew.Revel@state.de.us>, Carson, William (LegHall) <William.Carson@delaware.gov>, Morris, Shannon (LegHall) <Shannon.Morris@delaware.gov>, Bennett, Andria (LegHall) <andria.bennett@delaware.gov>, Bolden, StephanieT (LegHall) <StephanieT.Bolden@delaware.gov>, Sturgeon, Laura (LegHall) <Laura.Sturgeon@delaware.gov>, Pettyjohn, Brian (LegHall) <Brian.Pettyjohn@delaware.gov>, Schwartzkopf, Peter (LegHall) <Peter.Schwartzkopf@delaware.gov>, <matthew.Ritter@delaware.gov>, <julia.haas@delaware.gov>, Richardson, Bryant L (LegHall) <Bryant.Richardson@delaware.gov>, Shupe, Bryan (LegHall) <Bryan.Shupe@delaware.gov>, BriggsKing, Ruth (LegHall) <Ruth.BriggsKing@delaware.gov>, <raymond.bivens@state.de.us>, Majeski, Nicole (DelDOT) <Nicole.Majeski@delaware.gov>, Brady, Gerald (LegHall) <Gerald.Brady@delaware.gov>, Cooke, Franklin D (LegHall) <FranklinD.Cooke@delaware.gov>, Newsroom <newsroom@capegazette.com>, <newshub@delmarvanow.com>, <ssoper@mdcoastdispatch.com>, PSC (MailBox Resources) <PSC@delaware.gov>, Andrew S. Johnston -PSC- <Andrew.Johnston@maryland.gov>, <editor@mdcoastdispatch.com>, Paradee, Trey (LegHall) <Trey.Paradee@delaware.gov>, <susan.lyons@coastalpoint.com>, <bush29th@gmail.com>, Haag, Peter (DelDOT)

<Peter.Haag@state.de.us>, <michael.costello@sussexcountyde.gov>, <Stephanie.Hansen@state.de.us>, <Dawn.Hopkins@delaware.gov>, Heffernan, Debra (LegHall) <Debra.Heffernan@delaware.gov>, <grolfe@newszap.com>

Hello Everyone

The United States Senate and Congress has passed the Clean Energy Act recently and this means we need to really pay attention to the plans for wind farms and where they are finally approved. There are some sources that appear to think that the best place for windmills is in the open desert rather than the Ocean. There have been ongoing communications with various American Indians throughout our Country. It would seem that it would be more cost efficient and safest to locate the windmills in such a place, as the desserts. The contractors could work far more effectively and as a result save themselves a lot of money. I urge all of you to contact Tom Carper and let him know that we don't want the windmills located off of our shore lines.

The fact that we have not seen a working windmill design actually in place, like the ones we all have been reading about is a great concern for all. The best place to test such a new and very costly design that has recently shown a complete failure. If 40% efficiency is a success, I would think we all need our heads examined. By this I mean that the windmill design as it appears today reflects that the windmills will not be working for about 60% 0f the time due to maintenance related issues or other failures in design.

The locations that have been recently reported are just 8 miles off of the shore. This is TOTALY UNACCEPTABLE! The windmill contractors had repeatedly stated that they would work with all concerned and make every attempt to locate the windmills off shore about 20 to 25 miles off shore so there would not be any visibility concerns of the windmills from our beach homes. We need to continue to monitor this situation closely.

The fact that our Vice President had to cast the final vote to pass this Bill, surely shows how divided we are as a Country on this issue.

I want you all to know this type of construction will take many many years to complete and we all will suffer with the consequences of attempting to put something that doesn't work nor does it make economic sense to try to work around all of the businesses and homeowners in such a small compact area. Traffic nightmares will only get worse. The damages that will take place will be near catastrophic during the installation of such enormous foundations, cabling and windmill blades.The beach will resemble a war zone similar to Ukrane for years to come. Values of homes could plummet due to the lack of intelligence and sensitivity of how big of a disaster this plan could turn into.
After all, the Beach area has become one of the biggest economic supporters Delaware has seen in many years. Now it could suffer the worst financial downturn it has ever seen since the Great Depression.

In closing I have read recently that there have been 6 different lawsuits filed in Federal Court claiming widespread non-compliance with existing laws including the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Protection Act, the Administration Procedures Act, and most importantly Shelf Lands Act(OCSLA). The OCSLA bans the development of a historically undeveloped natural ocean view. Rather than go to court it would make more common sense for the Contractors to listen to the home owners and place these proposed windmills 25-30 miles offshore. We don't want to hear about their concerns regarding cost. Who are they kidding? This is all about making money and we the people are going to pay for it.

The best solution is to place all of the windmills in deserts, mountains and waterways that don't impact homeowners. If that can't happen than go back to the drawing board and present something we all can live with.

Regards

David A. Gordon

On Mon, Jun 6, 2022 at 9:41 PM Dave Gordon <da.gordon77@gmail.com> wrote:

> Hello Everyone
>
> This is an update for the Proposed Windmill Farm off the Delaware Shore lines.
>
> A study has been started just South of the Indian River Inlet.
>
> The Federal Government has granted approval for some designated waterways for future consideration for a possibility of some type of windmill proposal sometime over the next 100 gazillion years. What exactly is going to be introduced and when it is going to be introduced and approved is not very clear, up until now.

Many questions need to be answered such as the following:

How many windmills are proposed off the Delaware Beaches?

How tall are these windmills proposed?

How deep are the bases going to be?

What are the contractors going to do with the excess materials, afet the bases are placed?

How deep are the High Voltage cables going to be out in the Ocean and also as they make their way onto the Shore?

What are the chances of a cargo ship, or fishing boats, or even a plane hitting the windmills during a raging storm, or when a fog settles in?

What are the chances that a windmill could capsize due to a hurricane or a tornado? If that were to happen would the entire area be without electricity?

How loud would the noise be from driving piling or drilling, from home owners along the beach and beyond? What would the hour be for such a noisy process?

Are the end users going to save money on their electric bills or are they going to pay more for electricity?

What is the cost per windmill fabricated and installed? Who is paying for this work?

Are the end users going to be forced to help pay for the project once it is completed?

What happens if the design fails? Who pays? Who is insured against failure?

How Many miles off shore will the windmills be placed, if approved?

What happens if the contractor or contractors go out of business during the construction phase or even after they say it is complete? This Hugh process has never been performed by any contractor as of today. There is real suspicion as to what will work and what is being proposed. I think the Delaware Beaches should not be the first place to test such a crazy proposal-take it down the road!

When do you foresee this project getting approval?

What happens if the contractor or contractors go out of business during or after completion?

One contractor claims they will be here for 35 years and will leave. What does that mean? Leave??

Where will the cables come ashore? Will the beaches be able to be used by owners, boaters and fishermen?

Is this project really worth the cost and the inconvenience to all of the homeowners?

The salesmanship speaking for this project tells everyone that this is about jobs and clean energy, clean fossils,getting out of the oil business. I'm not buying into this talk. It's just talk.
It's really about the MONEY-HOW MUCH CAN THEY MAKE AND HOW FAST CAN THEY GET PAID. There is no competition. If you have just one, two or three bidders, the system will fail when getting bids. Does everyone understand here? It would be like contractors bidding on any Military project or providing weapons for the Military. There is no real bidding process-just build it and send me the bill!

I urge everyone to write to Tom Carper and ask him some of these questions or better yet, send some of your own questions and opinions to him and to the PRESS, as well.

Thank you.

David A. Gordon
Newark, Delaware
Bethany Beach Delaware

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Against Maryland/Delaware Offshore Wind Farm

1 message

Maryann <maryannguay@yahoo.com> Wed, May 31, 2023 at 5:01 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

Hello -

I am very much against the Maryland / Delaware Offshore wind farms for many, many reasons. I would like to be included in whatever we can do to stop the projects visible off Ocean City, MD, Fenwick Island, South Bethany, and Bethany Beach.

1. I do not want to see them on the horizon no matter how far. I also am concerned about noise pollution which is not well understood. I think there will be significant impacts to tourism and real estate propriety. While these reasons may seem selfish, I wonder if the wind farms be place in front of President Biden's house in Rehoboth? I'm sure I know the answer.

2. I am extremely concerned about the impact of whales, dolphins and all marine life. I have contacted WDC organization more than once regarding my concern for the impact to whales and dolphins, it's clear they have not performed enough studies to prove there will be minimal impact. But it is evident their hands are tied! I envision more and more mammals will wash up to shore as they are confused or lost as already see with the increase of beached whales along the east coast!

3. Ocean birds will also be killed by blades. The response I once received that birds also get killed by airplanes was an awful analogy and shows the lack of consideration given to our environment! Again I envision dead birds washing to shore on a regular basis.

4. What happens to these monstrosities when they fail? Are they Green? How will that help the environment?

I am extremely against the wind farms. Please include me as a signed party. If there is anything I can do to help, please let me know.

Signed,
Maryann Guay
Maryannguay@yahoo.com
Sea Colony / Bethany Beach Home owner

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Offshore Wind Farm Concerns

1 message

JOHN R HARMAN <harman133@verizon.net> Thu, Jun 1, 2023 at 11:45 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

Dear Mr. Taylor,

On behalf of the 39 properties located at Ocean Ridge West, Bethany Beach, I am writing to express our concern with regard to the currently planned wind farm along the Delaware coast.

Our concerns include:

Recent studies indicate potential harm to marine habitat, specifically our local whale population.

Visible pollution as the height of the individual turbines are such that they would be visible along the coast.

We believe that the proposed wind farm should be a minimum of 30 miles offshore and any approval should require a 30 mile exclusion zone.

Knute Olsen and Stephanie Cates-Harman
Co-Presidents,
Ocean Ridge West Homeowners Association

Sent from my iPad

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Opposite to offshore Atlantic wind farms.

1 message

Peter Hatgelakas <phatgelakas@yahoo.com> Mon, May 29, 2023 at 7:48 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

Official,

Please put my name in opposite to the east coast off shore wind farm. There is no need for it with all the natural gas available in the Appalachian region. Remember natural gas is a planet greening fuel.

Sincerely,

Peter J Hatgekakas

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Wind turbines in OC MD

1 message

Susan HERMAN <sdherman4@verizon.net> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 10:11 PM
To: ITP.taylor@noaa.gov

Is there anything we can do to stop the wind turbines going up in Ocean City MD? I am concerned about the damage to marine life they cause. I keep reading about endangered whales washing up on shore in NY and NJ and don't want the same to start happening here in MD. It seems like politicians only care about 'green energy' and there is no concern for ending the lives of endangered sea life. Can you help?

Thank you,
Susan Herman
4105623299

Sent from my iPhone

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Fwd:

1 message

Brad Hill <brad.v.hill@gmail.com> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 4:43 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

Wind turbines are bad news for the beach, the natural environment and the local economy.

Please accept these as my comments AGAINST the US Wind offshore wind project:

1. natural environment is threatened.....dead whales and dolphins are already washing up on shore
2. the commercial fishing industry opposes the turbines, they can no longer fish the waters
3. a study paid by the MD govt shows the wind turbines will **increase regional CO2 emissions** https://www.levitan.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Levitan-Associates-Inc.-Evaluation-and-Comparison.-Revised-Public-Version.-Case-No.-9431.-ML-214140.pdf
4. only 93 permanent jobs will be created but the $965,000,000 annual increase in cost of electricity will cause the loss of over 4,000 permanent jobs.
5. The two projects are owned by Italian and Danish companies....profits will flow overseas
6. over 700 1,000 foot tall wind turbines are approved off MD and DE, visible from shore, night and day....remember the flashing lights at night...
7. studies show that the local tourist economy will be damaged...https://news.ncsu.edu/2016/04/taylor-coast-2016/

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Delaware offshore wind farms

1 message

Bill Holtzman <soapcreek@comcast.net> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 12:37 PM
To: "ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov" <ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov>

Hi:

I own a condo at Sea Colony in Bethany Beach. Our unit is in Farragut House, which faces the Atlantic. I am reaching out to express support for visible wind turbines offshore. I have no issue with seeing environmentally friendly energy generation from my condo – in fact, I would very much like to see that. It would serve as a great reminder of the progress our country is making in eliminating fossil fuels from our energy diet. I regret that so many people are unwilling to make compromises to solve our collective problems. Should we also make the offshore areas prohibited to shipping so we don't have to look at ships either?

Thank you.

Bill

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Wind farm - no

1 message

Irene M Piechoski <sandflowers21@verizon.net> Wed, May 31, 2023 at 2:32 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

We agree with the below assessment of DavidStevenson@CaesarRodney.org. We believe the the US Wind request for a Letter of authorization, and NMFS consultation on the request is seriously flawed and incomplete. The request should be denied.

Irene Piechoski
Sandflowers21@verizon.net

1 Caesar Rodney Institute Center for Energy & Environment PO Box 18 Lewes, DE 19958WWW.CaesarRodney.org Jolie Harrison, Chief Permits & Conservation Division June 1, 2023Office of Protective Resources, NMFS 1315 East-west Highway Silver Spring, MD 20910 Public Comments on US Wind Application for Letter of Authorization under the Marine Mammal Protection Act for the Maryland Offshore Wind Project in Document 2023-09194 As stated in the Federal register, “An incidental take authorization shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth. NMFS has defined “negligible impact” in 50 CFR 216.103 as an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival. the MMPA defines “harassment” as: any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance, which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (Level A harassment); or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (Level B harassment)”. By these measures US Wind has failed to meet these standards especially for the Critically Endangered North Atlantic right whale (NARW) and their application should be rejected for the following reasons: • NMFS has established no standards for determining maximum estimated marine mammal abundances allowed in a month when construction will occur • NMFS has not established what version of estimated population abundances should be used • NMFS has not established the current abundance of NARWs • No LOA should be issued until at least one of the planned 18 MW turbines is actually built in the ocean with sound levels measured and reported accurately • No project should receive a LOA until this cumulative effect is fully considered • The projects have not been approved yet, or completed the Environmental Impact Statement Process •With no impact from the US Wind project, expected NARW deaths already exceed the level needed to maintain NARW stock. NMFS should not be approving any offshore wind activity that may further impact the NARW. NMFS/NOAA allows applicants to determine protected mammal abundance in an arbitrary and capricious manor The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) along with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) have issued numerous Letters of Authorization (LOA) for incidental take of marine mammals by offshore wind development companies consulting with the applicants during the application and approval process. The agencies have established take limits using species stock estimates and expected 2 Caesar Rodney Institute Center for Energy & Environment PO Box 18 Lewes, DE 19958WWW.CaesarRodney.org species densities in subject lease areas in an arbitrary and capricious manor. Consider two recent LOAs to the current Maryland Offshore Wind Project application in the Table below. Table 1: Recent five year Incidental Take requests for the North Atlantic Right Whale (NARW) Variable Vineyard Wind Ocean Wind 1 Coastal Virginia Marwin/ Momentum Wind LOA Date 5/1/2023 11/25/2022 Current Current NARW Take Request 20 14 23 6 NARW Population Estimate 394 368 346 338 Maximum Estimated NARW Presence Month Construction Allowed June December May November Maximum Estimated NARW Presence/100KM2 during construction 0.308 0.045 0.015 0.011 Maximum presence during construction compared to Marwin/Momentum Wind 28 X 4 X 1.4 X - Estimated Presence Version Used 2017

2022 2022 2022Source of population density: Roberts and Halpin, Duke University, the Northeast Regional Planning Body, the University of North Carolina Wilmington, the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center, and NOAA Habitat-based Marine Mammal Density Models for the U.S. Atlantic: Latest Versions (duke.edu) The agencies have approved recent projects without establishing a maximum allowed monthly estimated density of critically endangered NARW in the months construction is allowed. Allowed densities vary by a 28 fold difference, and there is no standard for the version of the source data used. This application gives an estimate of NARW population as 338 animals but each of the other projects uses a higher and different estimate from 346 to 394 animals. NMFS/NOAA should establish a NARW population number to be used in all applications, and a maximum allowed estimated population density for the months construction is allowed. No LOAs should be issued until these standards are met. NMFSs' consideration of incidental take during wind turbine operation is insufficient During construction dozens of mitigation steps are required to protect NARWs. The US Wind application allowing incidental take covers the period from January, 2025, through December, 2029, with construction completed by 2027 with partial operation as soon as 2025. This means the application will also cover incidental take during operation of the wind turbines. As a critically endangered species, the impacts on the NARW are of greatest concern. There are several potential impacts on the whales from high noise levels during construction: 1) Exposure of marine mammals to sound sources can result in, but is not limited to, no response or any of the following observable responses: increased alertness; orientation or attraction to a sound source; vocal modifications; cessation of feeding; cessation of social interaction; alteration of movement or diving behavior; habitat abandonment (temporary or permanent); and in severe cases, panic, flight, stampede, or stranding, potentially resulting in death 3 Caesar Rodney Institute Center for Energy & Environment PO Box 18 Lewes, DE 19958WWW.CaesarRodney.org 2) Avoidance is the displacement of an individual from an area or migration path as a result of the presence of a sound or other stressors and is one of the most obvious manifestations of disturbance in marine mammals. NARW tend to swim and feed near the water surface where zooplankton is abundant, putting them at increased risk of vessel collision (Mayo and Marx 1990; Baumgartner, M.F., et al. 2017; Parks et al. 2012). There is a high potential of vessel strikes as whales avoid noise harassment by leaving or avoiding a lease area and head into high traffic shipping lanes. See the map below showing the shipping lane abutting the project 3) Behavioral change, such as disturbance manifesting in lost foraging time, in response to anthropogenic activities is often assumed to indicate a biologically significant effect on a population of concern. Five out of six North Atlantic right whales exposed to an acoustic alarm interrupted their foraging dives (Nowacek et al., 2004). 4) Sound can disrupt behavior through masking, or interfering with, an animal's ability to detect, recognize, or discriminate between acoustic signals of interest. North Atlantic right whales have been observed to shift the frequency content of their calls upward while reducing the rate of calling in areas of increased anthropogenic noise (Parks et al., 2007) 4 Caesar Rodney Institute Center for Energy & Environment PO Box 18 Lewes, DE 19958 WWW.CaesarRodney.org 5) Sound can induce stress. Rolland et al. (2012) found that noise reduction from reduced ship traffic in the Bay of Fundy was associated with decreased stress in North Atlantic right whales. Correspondingly, increased noise levels can be expected to increase stress diverting energy from other functions 6) Sound may affect marine mammals through impacts on the abundance, behavior, or distribution of prey species (e.g., crustaceans, cephalopods, fish, and zooplankton). The presence and operation of structures such as wind turbines are, in general, likely to result in local and broader oceanographic effects in the marine environment and may disrupt marine mammal prey, such as dense aggregations and distribution of zooplankton. 7) Vessel collisions with marine mammals, also referred to as vessel strikes or ship strikes, can result in death or serious injury of the animal. Wounds resulting from ship strike may include massive trauma, hemorrhaging, broken bones, or propeller lacerations. US Wind expects at least 823 vessel trips/year during operation. US Wind did not request and NMFS is not proposing to authorize take incidental to operation noise. The same potential harmful impacts described above during construction could exist during operation with the primary difference operational noise will be nearly continuous for decades. No turbines approaching the size of the up to 18 megawatt turbines planned for this project have been built in the ocean anywhere on the globe. A study by Stöber and Thomsen (2021) estimated the operational noise from the larger, more recent generation of direct-drive wind turbines. Their findings demonstrated noise levels could be up to 170 to 177 dB for a 10 megawatt turbine. Furthermore, noise levels where likely to diminish to NOAA Level B harassment levels of 120 dB at about 0.9 miles away from the turbine. Since planned turbine spacing is only on a 0.9 by 1.2 mile grid, noise levels will likely significantly exceed Level B harassment limits throughout the project area and for one mile beyond the project area. (Journal of the Acoustical Society, "How could operational underwater sound from future offshore wind turbines impact marine life?", Uwe Stöber and Frank Thomsen, https://asa.scitation.org/doi/abs/10.1121/10.0003760?journalCode=jas) In addition to the above mentioned concerns, the US Wind application states "NARW's require extremely dense patches of zooplankton to feed efficiently". Also stated is the fact average length of

NARWs has decreased 7.3% over the period 1981-2019. Smaller size can impact breeding and nursing. Broad scale hydrodynamic impacts could alter zooplankton distribution and abundance by greater mixing (van Berkel et al. 2020). US Wind admits in their application, "If the presence of Project structures causes a change in ocean circulation, it may cause marine mammals to shift their foraging grounds to account for shifting distributions of prey species." As reported in the application, "Abundance estimates, Potential Biological Removal (PBR) values, and Annual Mortality/Serious Injury (M/SI) values were sourced from the most recent NOAA Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Report issued for each species and stock (88 FR 4162, Hayes et al. 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019; Waring et al. 2015). PBR is defined by the MMPA as the maximum number of animals, not including natural mortalities, that may be removed from a marine mammal stock while allowing that stock to reach or maintain its optimum sustainable population. Annual M/SI values represent annual levels of human-caused 5 Caesar Rodney Institute Center for Energy & Environment PO Box 18 Lewes, DE 19958 WWW.CaesarRodney.orgmortality plus serious injury from all sources combined (e.g., commercial fisheries, ship strike)." The NARW PBR estimate given in Table 3.1 is 0.7 while the M/SI value is 8.1. NARW are currently experiencing an unusual mortality event (UME); elevated numbers of dead or seriously injured NARW have been recorded in Canada and the United States since 2017 (NOAA Fisheries 2023a). Throughout this time period, 35 NARW deaths have been reported, as well as 22 serious injuries, and 37 sub-lethal injuries and illnesses (NOAA Fisheries 2023a). In the period of 2016-2020, incidental fishery entanglement mortality and serious injury averaged 5.7 individuals per year, and vessel strike mortality and serious injury averaged 2.4 individuals per year (88 FR 4162). This means, with no impact from the US Wind project, expected NARW deaths already exceed the level needed to maintain NARW stock. NMFS should not be approving any offshore wind activity that may further impact the NARW. Clearly, operational noise poses a serious, and even potentially deadly threat and could result in NARW extinctions. No LOA should be issued until at least one of the planned 18 MW turbines is actually built in the ocean with sound levels measured and reported accurately. Building the project with sound measured only after project is built is unacceptable. NMFS has failed to consider the cumulative impact from the numerous LOAs issued in active NARW habitat The Harassment Permit analysis does not assess cumulative impacts on the affected marine mammals. Instead, it treats the Project as if it were to be installed and operated in a vacuum, where no other impacts exists. In reality the project is adjacent to the Skipjack 1 and 2 Projects, and the Garden State project, and not far from multiple projects off the southern New Jersey coast. All of these projects may be simultaneously be under construction, and will certainly be operational at the same time. Marine mammals avoiding the Marwin and Momentum Wind projects may simply wander into another project and across multiple shipping channels adding to stress and confusion greatly increasing the potential for vessel strikes and entanglement. See the below maps of vessel paths to the north of the Maryland project. NMFS is ignoring this issue. No project should receive a LOA until this cumulative effect is fully considered. 6 Caesar Rodney Institute Center for Energy & Environment PO Box 18 Lewes, DE 19958WWW.CaesarRodney.org Conclusion The US Wind request for a LOA, and NMFS consultation on the request is seriously flawed and incomplete. The request should be denied. David T. Stevenson Director, Center for Energy & Environment Caesar Rodney Institute e-mail: DavidStevenson@CaesarRodney.org

Sent from my iPhone
sandflowers21@verizon.net

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Sea based wind Turbines

1 message

ROBERT JACOBS <rob6j@aol.com> Mon, May 29, 2023 at 5:39 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

I would like to urge the construction of these wind turbines! I would hope they are at least a half mile to a mile out!
I feel confident that sea life can avoid them and hope something can be installed to warm off birds!
We need clean energy and a way to stop earth warming with resulting sea level rise and storm intensity
Robert Jacobs Sea Colony East
Anapolis Building

Sent from my iPhone

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Wind Farm

1 message

Faith <fajoy@aol.com> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 6:49 AM
Reply-To: Faith <fajoy@aol.com>
To: "ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov" <ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov>

Please do not put a wind farm off the coast of Delaware or any Coastal area. And/or support placement elsewhere. Although I'm not opposed to wind farms and are necessary for future energy alternatives, not where it will be harmful to ocean and air wildlife as this is irresponsible.

Most sincerely and respectfully yours,
Faith Joyce

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Public Comments on US Wind Application

1 message

John Piechoski <jpiechoski@gmail.com> Wed, May 31, 2023 at 2:19 PM
Reply-To: jpiechoski@gmail.com
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov
Cc: DavidStevenson@caesarrodney.org

To whom it may concern,

Please include me as an interested party, and sign me up as agreeing with all of the comments provided by :

David T. Stevenson
Director, Center for Energy & Environment
Caesar Rodney Institute
DavidStevenson@CaesarRodney.org

Kind Regards,
John Piechoski

33283 Pine Cone Lane

Unit 56199

Bethany Beach, DE 19930

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Wind Farms off Delaware Coast -- I Support

1 message

Barbara Katz <katz.barbara@gmail.com> Mon, May 29, 2023 at 5:12 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

Hello,
I am a resident of Sea Colony in Bethany Beach and just want you to know that I support the building of wind farms off the Delaware coast, visible or not. I understand that comments are due by June 1st.
Thank you.
Barbara J. Katz
39171 Sanddollar Court
Bethany Beach, DE 19930

Barbara J. Katz
703 768 3488 (landline -- no texts)

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Public comment US Wind request for incidental take of mammals off the Delaware/Maryland coast

1 message

Sharon Kehnemui <sharon1841@gmail.com> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 10:52 AM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

I'm submitting for the record hearty and vociferous opposition to US Wind's application for incidental take of marine mammals as part of its industrialization of the ocean through the development of offshore wind farms along the Eastern Seaboard and specifically off the Maryland and Delaware coasts. With more than 27 offshore wind energy projects in development in the Northeast, and more in the planning stages, the "negligible" harm to mammals, particularly the endangered North Atlantic right whale, is anything but negligible. With fewer than 350 of these whales believed to be left in existence, the unnatural loss of even one is considered beyond the species' ability to survive. This fact is well-known to the federal government, as Sean A Hayes, the Chief of Protected Species, has previously written.

It is unconscionable to consider sacrificing the species for an elusive energy goal whose effects on our waterways have barely been studied or calculated. US Wind knows full well that if it had the data in hand on the impact of noise, habitat modification, and construction traffic on marine mammal populations then its efforts would be shut down. But without the data, it can claim some other cause for the diminution of marine mammal populations. This is not gross negligence. This is deliberate malfeasance for a bottom dollar. Furthermore, in its quest to fulfill its arbitrary goal of 30 gigawatts of offshore wind power by 2035, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, is willing to deplete ocean marine life to satisfy a $50 billion industry. This is not how sane or civil guardians of the environment are supposed to act.

Whatever you think may be accomplished by unreliable wind energy, the sacrifices are not worth it. Kehnemui Family LLC opposes this plan for building any offshore wind farms on the Maryland and Delaware coasts.

Sincerely,
Sharon Kehnemui
Managing Partner
Kehnemui Family LLC

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

US Wind

1 message

Kevin Kilgallen <kkilgallen@midatlanticmachinery.com> Wed, May 31, 2023 at 5:11 PM
To: "ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov" <ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov>

Our family is absolutely against any action effecting marine mammals in a negative way.

Kevin J. Kilgallen, CMTSE

President

MID ATLANTIC MACHINERY

6332 Flank Drive

Harrisburg, PA 17112

(P) 717-541-1633 * (F) 717-541-8014

www.midatlanticmachinery.com

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Wind Farms along the Delaware Coast

1 message

Bob Kowalski <bob_kowalski@yahoo.com> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 5:30 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

Hello,

While I support renewable energy sources, I am writing to express my concern with regard to the currently planned wind farm along the Delaware coast. My concerns are:

Recent studies indicate potential harm to marine habitat, specifically our local whale population.

Visible pollution as the height of the individual turbines are such that they would be visible along the coast.

The solution would be to have a 30 mile exclusion zone, which I support.

Robert M. Kowalski
Homeowner and Delaware resident
413 E Bank Road
Bethany Beach, Delaware 19930

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Off shore wind

1 message

The Kulbergs <thekulbergs@gmail.com> Mon, May 29, 2023 at 9:05 PM
To: board@seacolony.com
Cc: DavidStevenson@caesarrodney.org, ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

Dear Sea Colony Board,

I'm a new resident at Sea Colony, Phase 7, unit 5201.
I'm not surprised people don't want to see wind turbines off the shore, but I want to add one more voice to the people who DO approve of this project.

1. Of course, there is the obvious need for clean renewable energy to help stem the effects of global warming, which will affect Sea Colony a lot over the years to come

2. Making them build these things enough miles off shore so you can't see them makes the projects way more expensive to build initially, and makes them more expensive to maintain, and those are costs that will only be passed on to the consumers.

3. Although there has been speculation about the connection between wind farms and large ocean mammals being harmed, most studies and experts believe that recent deaths and beachings are more the result of these mammals following their food to new areas, as those species adapt to global ocean temperature shifts.

4. Far more whales will probably be harmed by global warming that by these windmills.

5. I personally don't think windmills even look bad, and often look pretty nice.

6. I think the entire world, including us, needs to think about the big picture a little more and less about their own backyard.

7. Also, it looks like this project is off the Jersey shore, so I'm not even sure what the folks at Sea Colony are concerned about. It's not even like you'll see them when you look straight east.

8. I definitely don't want any of the money I give to Sea Colony being used for a lawsuit. I suggest that if you have so many people opposed to the project, that you let them opt in on the legal actions and leave the rest of us out of it.

Thanks for your time and consideration,
Sincerely,
Mitch Kulberg

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Wind farm

1 message

Nancy Leager <cshell0101@yahoo.com> Fri, Jun 2, 2023 at 12:33 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

Please deny the application for wind farms along our Delaware coast!
It will be total destruction of our ocean floor, bay floor and river bottom, by installing and bringing the lines to the power plant.
The destruction will affect all of these things, along with the any sea life that exists, for many, many years!

David and nancy leager
River road
Millsboro de

Sent from my iPhone

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Wind farm off coast of Sea Colony, Bethany Beach Delaware

1 message

Lemberg <d1lem@ptd.net> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 7:13 AM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

Hello,

I am an owner at Sea Colony in Bethany Beach Delaware. I want to express that I DO NOT support the federal adoption of an exclusion zone for offshore wind of at least 30 miles from the coast of Delaware, and Sea Colony.
I DO NOT support having visible wind farms as well as taking mammals in the process.

Thank you. If you have any questions, you may reach me at this email address: d1Lem@ptd.net.

Diane Lemberg

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Wind Turbines

1 message

tanja levenson <bellaplumusa@aim.com> Wed, May 31, 2023 at 4:53 PM
To: ITP.taylor@noaa.gov

I realize it is too late to stop this project off the fragile coast of Delaware. However, I have ZERO faith in the companies ability to limit and mitigate damage to our ocean and the marine life within. The wind company is solely after profits and I doubt any construction will ever be halted once begun- even if whales, dolphins, or turtles are seen within the “supposed boundary area”. Frankly, it is beyond appalling what humans are doing to the environment and our fragile ecosystem—all in the guise of progress! What are we thinking? How much more needs to be lost before someone wises up.
Tanja Levenson, LPCMH

Sent from my iPhone

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Opposition to US Wind Incidental Take Authorization OCS-A 0490 ("ITA")

1 message

guayliu@verizon.net <guayliu@verizon.net> Mon, May 29, 2023 at 5:02 PM
Reply-To: guayliu@verizon.net
To: "ITP.taylor@noaa.gov" <ITP.taylor@noaa.gov>

Dear Sir or Madam,

This e-mail is in opposition of the above ITA. As you are well aware, there has been a disturbing increase in the death of marine animals along the coast of New Jersey and New York where a high level of activity related to offshore wind projects is in progress. Upon comparison of similar incidental take authorizations granted by your Agency, there has been a gross underestimation of the impacts these wind projects have on marine life. A simplistic and biased response would be that such projects are unrelated to the deaths, and no known links exist between the deaths and the wind project work, however, it would require a suspension of disbelief to conclude that the work is unrelated. The official mission statement of your agency is the "stewardship of the ocean's resources and their habitat. To grant the ITA before additional research can be done on the full impacts of the offshore wind projects would be a dereliction of duty by your Agency.

HH Liu

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Legal action-Wind turbines

1 message

mailformarit (null) <mailformarit@aol.com> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 12:02 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

A large part of Delaware's economy is from beach tourism. The value of a beach is sunrise and sunset on the horizon and your turbines will directly impact this.

These turbines will harm me and will directly impact the value of my property let alone harming the wildlife. I do not support or want these wind turbines AT ALL. But no matter what do not allow these to be visible from the shore!!

I will join a class-action suit if these turbines are built especially if visible from the shore or our upper-level condo.

I have been coming to and living in Bethany Beach for over 40 years. I will be selling our condo and Sue if cost is lost due to visible turbines.

A glass of wine, moonlight reflecting on calm waters with CONTINUAL… RED… FLASHING… LIGHTS … will no longer be romantic.

Thank you if you read this,
Mari Thomas
(240) 731-4722

Sent from my iPhone

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Public Comments on US Wind Application for Letter of Authorization

1 message

david maguigad <davidmaguigad@gmail.com> Wed, May 31, 2023 at 9:15 PM
To: itp.taylor@noaa.gov

> Jolie Harrison
> Chief Permits & Conservation Division
> Office of Protective Resources, NMFS
> 1315 East-WestHwy
> Silver Spring MD 20910
>
> The US Wind application for Letter of Authorization under the Marine Mammal Protection Act for Maryland Offshore Wind Project in Document 2023-09194 should be denied due to the adverse impact to wildlife in the area.
>
> Respectfully,
> David Maguigad
> 104 Annapolis House Road
> Bethany Beach DE 19930

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

You can add us to your comments

1 message

Brian Malkin <brianjmalkin@gmail.com> Mon, May 29, 2023 at 8:36 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov
Cc: Oliver Malkin <oliverlmalkin@gmail.com>

Harbour House 601

Brian Malkin and Maryana Olman

Thank you for drafting such thoughtful comments - we agree - no wind farms off the coast near Sea Colony!

Brian Malkin
brianjmalkin@gmail.com

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Wind turbines

1 message

Holly Marinkovich <hollymarinkovich@gmail.com> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 5:47 AM
To: ITP.taylor@noaa.gov

Is there anything we can do to stop the wind turbines going up in Ocean City MD? I am concerned about the damage to marine life they cause. I keep reading about endangered whales washing up on shore in NY and NJ and don't want the same to start happening here in MD. It seems like politicians only care about 'green energy' and there is no concern for ending the lives of endangered sea life. Can you help?

Thank you, Holly Marinkovich
703-638-3173

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Offshore wind farm

1 message

Jean McCarthy <rjmccarthy5@yahoo.com> Mon, May 29, 2023 at 4:50 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

Robert and Jean McCarthy 505 S. Edgewater house Sea Colony.
We are 100% against the offshore wind farm for so many reasons. Please make sure our objection is added to your list.
Sent from my iPhone

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Maryland Public comment on US wind incidental take application , offshore wind

1 message

abc681@mchsi.com <abc681@mchsi.com> Wed, May 3, 2023 at 10:40 AM
To: ITP.taylor@noaa.gov

To: Jolie Harrison, Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

Dear Chief Jolie Harrison,

We are writing this letter to oppose any requests from US Wind or other companies to allow incidental takes of our ocean creatures.
Over 1/2 million citizens have signed the State of New Jerseys-save the whales/ stop offshore wind petition on Change.org calling for a halt to sonar mapping and offshore wind.

Our Federal agency's report titled "Fisheries and Offshore wind interactions: Synthesis of Science" states, "The lack of knowledge on the intensities of EMF anticipated from offshore wind cables, makes it difficult to draw conclusions based on studies to date." And shows how the electromagnetic field (EMF) around high-powered undersea cable can change sea life behavior. These lines run through our protected watershed. These studies are not complete and further allow our ocean life and ecosystems to be "harassed" is not protecting ecosystems or human life.

NOAA, RODA, BOEM, Northeast Fisheries Science Center have a striking array of issues related to offshore wind development as the report states.

The authorized Level 3 Harassment In 2023, 40 whales deaths NOAA concluded to be struck by an ocean vessel. This already shows the total disregard by these vessels sonar and traffic not reporting a whale collisions. It's also proves Level 3 Harassment is disorienting all creatures and causing vessel strikes, and more net entanglements. Pods of Dolphin are flee the ocean to their death due to this Level 3 harassment from sonar mapping.

These applications and extensions of incidental takes will not end.
Level 3 harassment will continue during the construction of the wind turbines offshore. There are deaths do we not know about. One (1) SEI in NC started the count. There could be more. the authorized number was 3.

1970- legislation passed and the country UNITED to protected the whales.
1986- We UNITED the WORLD and halted commercial whaling worldwide.
25+ years later countries still ignore this. We should not be one of them.

These foreign wind turbine companies do not know our waters and fragile ecosystem. Nor climate change in currents, waves, winds, and storms in our ocean. And according to the report , Federal agency's do not know the data for continued harassment of the EMF cables to the protected watershed inland bays.

As climate change affects our earth , scientist have proven these sentinels help combat climate change - and sustain human life.

Our ecosystem was once called fragile. It naturally protects our migratory animals , birds, earth, and protecting human life.
Therefore, the application for incidental take should be denied.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely,
Rehoboth Beach , Bethany Beach, Ocean View, and Fenwick Island property owners.
State of Delaware

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Opposition

1 message

jolene0111 <jolene0111@aol.com> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 10:42 AM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

I am opposed to off shore wind farms until further information is brought forward. My concerns are legitimate in regards to the diminished whale populations. Please send me any of your investigative reports to review. It's appalling to me that this is being done without more public input.
Thank you,
Jolene Mead
3021 Quicktown Rd
Madison Township, PA 18444

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

US Wind Whale Take

1 message

lineymeeks@gmail.com <lineymeeks@gmail.com> Thu, Jun 1, 2023 at 4:56 PM
To: ITP.taylor@noaa.gov

The technology behind these wind turbines simply does not make sense. Other countries are starting to get away from them, and have voiced serious regret for allowing these contractors to come in and destroy their marine life.

Texas officials have also began to voice regret over the decisions to allow wind turbines to be installed.

I am a licensed elevator mechanic and inspector by profession. I know for a fact that not only will these wind turbines be deemed obsolete within 7 years of installation, I also know that the manufacturers are under sizing these turbines to prevent them from falling over, which is actually causing them to over heat and catch fire instead.

The juice here is simply not worth the squeeze. The ecosystem of the Atlantic Ocean is not something to take for granted. These wind turbines also put off frequencies that are harmful to human health.

Another concern, the horseshoe crab, whose blood the medical community depends on for bacteria detection in medial instruments, is a detrimental resource that I feel mankind should not risk losing.

Let alone the whales, dolphins, birds, and every other species that we are in jeopardy of harming or worse.

Please stop this insanity before it is too late.

Best Regards,
Lindsay Meeks

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Wind farms off the coast of of Delaware beaches.

1 message

Holly Miremadi <saveastray@msn.com> Wed, May 31, 2023 at 10:41 AM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

I am strongly opposed to the installation of wind farms along our Delaware beaches. I am a resident of Bethany Beach and wind turbines is NOT what I want to see when sitting or walking by our magestic, peaceful ocean. In addition, I am very concerned about the safety, health, and well being of marine life, which include sea animals and birds. The entires process of installing wind turbines and their operation after install ion is detrimental to all marine animals. Animals (all around the world) have had their habitat destroyed due to human greed and yet developer just keeping taking more away!!! I realize this is an alternative energy source, but we're losing all wild mammals and marine animals at an alarming rate due to over development and the building wind farms. We have to protect our land and sea animals at all costs for future generations.

Holly Miremadi
Bethany Beach, DE

Sent from my iPhone

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Not supportive of offshore wind farms and incidental intake of marine mammals

1 message

Raluca Monet <raluca.monet@gmail.com> Thu, Jun 1, 2023 at 9:12 AM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov
Cc: board@seacolony.com, DavidStevenson@caesarrodney.org

My name is Raluca Monet an owner of a unit in Sea Colony (904 Farragut House) in Bethany Beach, VA. I understand that IS Wind has applied to the federal government for approval to incidentally take marine mammals for the next five years of construction and operation. I would like to request to stop the projects which would makes these wind farms visible off Ocean City, MD, Fenwick Island, South Bethany, and Bethany Beach.

Thank you for your consideration,

Raluca Monet
Owner of 904 Farragut House
Bethany Beach, VA 19930
Cell 703-869-1053.

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Comment on USWind marine mammal incidental taking application

1 message

Donald Moore III <drdonmooreiii@gmail.com> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 10:25 AM
To: "itp.taylor@noaa.gov" <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

I support the USWind application for authorization for incidental taking of marine mammals during development of their offshore wind project.

Why?: 1) Climate change is an existential threat to all life on the planet, and the benefits of this renewable energy project outweigh potential costs; 2) USWind has proposed appropriate marine mammal protection measures in my opinion; 3) I trust NOAA personnel and collaborators to monitor the development zones to maximize detection of marine mammals and to mitigate "take" in numerous ways (including by shutting down pile drivers during work when necessary).

Thank you for your consideration of these comments,

Don
Don Moore PhD
DonEMoore Consulting LLC: Making Animal Lives Better, Building Trusted Cultural Institutions
Milton, DE 19968

Certified Wildlife Biologist, TWS

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Proposed Wind farm project

1 message

MARCUS MORRA <morrafam5@verizon.net> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 7:03 AM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

I am NOT in support of the wind farm project proposed for off the coast of Sea Colony. I am deeply concerned about its effects on sea life and the aesthetics of it.

Thank you,
J. Morra
Sea Colony owner

Sent from my iPhone

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Wind Farm

1 message

Kim Noble <kmnoble16@gmail.com> Thu, Jun 1, 2023 at 8:42 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

Good evening David,

We would like to sign on with your comments.

We are Dan and Kim Noble (501F)
elbonbiz451@gmail.com

Thank you,

Kim Noble
571.276.6534

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

East Coast Off Shore Wind Farms (OSW) Public Comment on Environmental Impact Assessment

1 message

rnolan <rnolan@echoes.net> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 10:18 AM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

I wish to emphatically state my opposition to any further development, or consideration of such development, of OSW along the eastern coast of the United States. The already well documented mayhem and death and destruction of extremely endangered marine life, including the right whale, must immediately cease, along with your contrived assault on the economic welfare of the taxpayer whom you have shamelessly and purposely kept in the dark regarding your evil income redistribution scheme. Enough with your unbridled corruption at the expense of nature and taxpayer. I and we are fully cognizant of your evil scheme. An immediate cease and desist of all such operations is the only acceptable outcome. How do you people sleep at night, or even look at your Malthusian faces in the mirror.
STOP IMMEDIATELY.

Yours truly.....and informed and observant, middle class taxpayer who vehemently opposes your disgraceful charade.

Robert Nolan
1072 Advent Road
Lake Ariel, PA 18436

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S10e, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Industrial wind lease off Maryland Coast. Response.

1 message

MARK PADDACK <marklpaddack@comcast.net> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 1:19 PM
To: "ITP.taylor@noaa.gov" <ITP.taylor@noaa.gov>
Cc: MARK PADDACK <marklpaddack@comcast.net>

Jolie Harrison

Chief, Permits and Conservation Division

Office of Protected Resources

National Marine Fisheries Service

1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910

CC Email: ITP.taylor@noaa.gov

May 30, 2023

For such a large project. I request an extension for public comment on US Wind industrialization of commercial wind turbines off the coast of Ocean City, Maryland. Notice made May 2, 2023, with deadline June 1, 2023. Request an extension to the response time for the public comments.

Incidental Take Authorization (Killing and harassment) for marine mammals is contrary to Federal Law which Congress passed to protect Atlantic Coast ecosystem. Since December 2022 thirty-six whales have washed up in record numbers and dolphins. Suspected low frequency seismic testing (HRG Survey Activity) by the wind industry is disrupting and harassing mammals. I am requesting a moratorium be instituted. My understanding is the GAO is completing a study regarding the killings that have recently taken place.

NOAA claims no definitive data yet has not offered to study the most recent data of killing marine mammals contrary to Federal Laws enacted by Congress. This process alone should require a moratorium until those GAO finds are reported to the public. NOAA should be exercising due diligence to study the recent deaths before permitting.

Thank you,

Mark L. Paddack

134 Winter Harbor Drive

Ocean City, Maryland 21842

410-726-0216

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Please sign us on to your comments

1 message

Lisa Peterson <giraffebruin@gmail.com> Thu, Jun 1, 2023 at 12:48 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

Lisa and Dan Peterson
56191 Pine Branch Ct
Bethany Beach DE

Giraffebruin@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Wind farm comments

1 message

piech1@verizon.net <piech1@verizon.net> Wed, May 31, 2023 at 3:38 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

I agree with the below assessment of DavidStevenson@CaesarRodney.org. I believe the the US Wind request for a Letter of authorization, and NMFS consultation on the request is seriously flawed and incomplete. The request should be denied.

John P Piechoski

302-239-4475

Piech1@verizon.net

1 Caesar Rodney Institute Center for Energy & Environment PO Box 18 Lewes, DE 19958 WWW.CaesarRodney.org Jolie Harrison, Chief Permits & Conservation Division June 1, 2023 Office of Protective Resources, NMFS 1315 East-west Highway Silver Spring, MD 20910 Public Comments on US Wind Application for Letter of Authorization under the Marine Mammal Protection Act for the Maryland Offshore Wind Project in Document 2023-09194 As stated in the Federal register, “An incidental take authorization shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth. NMFS has defined “negligible impact” in 50 CFR 216.103 as an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival. the MMPA defines “harassment” as: any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance, which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (Level A harassment); or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (Level B harassment)”. By these measures US Wind has failed to meet these standards especially for the Critically Endangered North Atlantic right whale (NARW) and their application should be rejected for the following reasons: • NMFS has established no standards for determining maximum estimated marine mammal abundances allowed in a month when construction will occur • NMFS has not established what version of estimated population abundances should be used • NMFS has not established the current abundance of NARWs • No LOA should be issued until at least one of the planned 18 MW turbines is actually built in the ocean with sound levels measured and reported accurately • No project should receive a LOA until this cumulative effect is fully considered • The projects have not been approved yet, or completed the Environmental Impact Statement Process • With no impact from the US Wind project, expected NARW deaths already exceed the level needed to maintain NARW stock. NMFS should not be approving any offshore wind activity that may further impact the NARW. NMFS/NOAA allows applicants to determine protected mammal abundance in an arbitrary and capricious manor The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) along with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) have issued numerous Letters of Authorization (LOA) for incidental take of marine mammals by offshore wind development companies consulting with the applicants during the application and approval process. The agencies have established take limits using species stock estimates and expected 2 Caesar Rodney Institute Center for Energy & Environment PO Box 18 Lewes, DE 19958 WWW.CaesarRodney.org species densities in subject lease areas in an arbitrary and capricious manor. Consider two recent LOAs to the current Maryland Offshore Wind Project application in the Table below. Table 1: Recent five year Incidental Take requests for the North Atlantic Right Whale (NARW) Variable Vineyard Wind Ocean Wind 1 Coastal Virginia Marwin/ Momentum Wind LOA Date 5/1/2023 11/25/2022 Current Current NARW Take Request 20 14 23 6 NARW Population Estimate 394 368 346 338 Maximum Estimated NARW Presence Month Construction Allowed June December May November Maximum Estimated NARW Presence/100KM2 during construction 0.308 0.045 0.015 0.011 Maximum presence during construction compared to Marwin/Momentum Wind 28 X 4 X 1.4 X - Estimated Presence Version Used 2017 2022 2022 2022 Source of population density: Roberts and Halpin, Duke University, the Northeast Regional Planning Body, the University of North Carolina Wilmington, the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center,

and NOAA Habitat-based Marine Mammal Density Models for the U.S. Atlantic: Latest Versions (duke.edu) The agencies have approved recent projects without establishing a maximum allowed monthly estimated density of critically endangered NARW in the months construction is allowed. Allowed densities vary by a 28 fold difference, and there is no standard for the version of the source data used. This application gives an estimate of NARW population as 338 animals but each of the other projects uses a higher and different estimate from 346 to 394 animals. NMFS/NOAA should establish a NARW population number to be used in all applications, and a maximum allowed estimated population density for the months construction is allowed. No LOAs should be issued until these standards are met. NMFSs' consideration of incidental take during wind turbine operation is insufficient During construction dozens of mitigation steps are required to protect NARWs. The US Wind application allowing incidental take covers the period from January, 2025, through December, 2029, with construction completed by 2027 with partial operation as soon as 2025. This means the application will also cover incidental take during operation of the wind turbines. As a critically endangered species, the impacts on the NARW are of greatest concern. There are several potential impacts on the whales from high noise levels during construction: 1) Exposure of marine mammals to sound sources can result in, but is not limited to, no response or any of the following observable responses: increased alertness; orientation or attraction to a sound source; vocal modifications; cessation of feeding; cessation of social interaction; alteration of movement or diving behavior; habitat abandonment (temporary or permanent); and in severe cases, panic, flight, stampede, or stranding, potentially resulting in death 3 Caesar Rodney Institute Center for Energy & Environment PO Box 18 Lewes, DE 19958 WWW.CaesarRodney.org 2) Avoidance is the displacement of an individual from an area or migration path as a result of the presence of a sound or other stressors and is one of the most obvious manifestations of disturbance in marine mammals. NARW tend to swim and feed near the water surface where zooplankton is abundant, putting them at increased risk of vessel collision (Mayo and Marx 1990; Baumgartner, M.F., et al. 2017; Parks et al. 2012). There is a high potential of vessel strikes as whales avoid noise harassment by leaving or avoiding a lease area and head into high traffic shipping lanes. See the map below showing the shipping lane abutting the project 3) Behavioral change, such as disturbance manifesting in lost foraging time, in response to anthropogenic activities is often assumed to indicate a biologically significant effect on a population of concern. Five out of six North Atlantic right whales exposed to an acoustic alarm interrupted their foraging dives (Nowacek et al., 2004). 4) Sound can disrupt behavior through masking, or interfering with, an animal's ability to detect, recognize, or discriminate between acoustic signals of interest. North Atlantic right whales have been observed to shift the frequency content of their calls upward while reducing the rate of calling in areas of increased anthropogenic noise (Parks et al., 2007) 4 Caesar Rodney Institute Center for Energy & Environment PO Box 18 Lewes, DE 19958 WWW.CaesarRodney.org 5) Sound can induce stress. Rolland et al. (2012) found that noise reduction from reduced ship traffic in the Bay of Fundy was associated with decreased stress in North Atlantic right whales. Correspondingly, increased noise levels can be expected to increase stress diverting energy from other functions 6) Sound may affect marine mammals through impacts on the abundance, behavior, or distribution of prey species (e.g., crustaceans, cephalopods, fish, and zooplankton). The presence and operation of structures such as wind turbines are, in general, likely to result in local and broader oceanographic effects in the marine environment and may disrupt marine mammal prey, such as dense aggregations and distribution of zooplankton. 7) Vessel collisions with marine mammals, also referred to as vessel strikes or ship strikes, can result in death or serious injury of the animal. Wounds resulting from ship strike may include massive trauma, hemorrhaging, broken bones, or propeller lacerations. US Wind expects at least 823 vessel trips/year during operation. US Wind did not request and NMFS is not proposing to authorize take incidental to operation noise. The same potential harmful impacts described above during construction could exist during operation with the primary difference operational noise will be nearly continuous for decades. No turbines approaching the size of the up to 18 megawatt turbines planned for this project have been built in the ocean anywhere on the globe. A study by Stöber and Thomsen (2021) estimated the operational noise from the larger, more recent generation of direct-drive wind turbines. Their findings demonstrated noise levels could be up to 170 to 177 dB for a 10 megawatt turbine. Furthermore, noise levels where likely to diminish to NOAA Level B harassment levels of 120 dB at about 0.9 miles away from the turbine. Since planned turbine spacing is only on a 0.9 by 1.2 mile grid, noise levels will likely significantly exceed Level B harassment limits throughout the project area and for one mile beyond the project area. (Journal of the Acoustical Society, "How could operational underwater sound from future offshore wind turbines impact marine life?", Uwe Stöber and Frank Thomsen, https://asa.scitation.org/doi/abs/10.1121/10.0003760?journalCode=jas) In addition to the above mentioned concerns, the US Wind application states "NARW's require extremely dense patches of zooplankton to feed efficiently". Also stated is the fact average length of NARWs has decreased 7.3% over the period 1981-2019. Smaller size can impact breeding and nursing. Broad scale hydrodynamic impacts could alter zooplankton distribution and abundance by greater mixing (van Berkel et al. 2020). US Wind admits in their application, "If the presence of Project structures causes a change in ocean circulation, it may cause marine mammals to shift their foraging grounds to account for shifting distributions of prey species." As reported in the application, "Abundance estimates, Potential Biological Removal (PBR) values, and Annual Mortality/Serious Injury (M/SI) values were sourced from the most recent NOAA Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Report issued for each species and stock (88 FR 4162, Hayes et al. 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019; Waring et al. 2015). PBR is defined by the MMPA as the maximum number of animals, not including natural mortalities, that may be removed from a marine mammal stock while allowing that stock to reach or maintain its optimum sustainable population. Annual M/SI values represent annual levels of human-caused 5 Caesar Rodney Institute Center for Energy & Environment PO Box 18 Lewes, DE 19958 WWW.CaesarRodney.org mortality plus serious injury from all sources combined (e.g., commercial fisheries, ship strike)." The NARW PBR estimate given in Table 3.1 is 0.7 while the M/SI value is 8.1. NARW are currently experiencing an unusual mortality event (UME); elevated numbers of dead or seriously injured NARW have been recorded in Canada and the United States since 2017 (NOAA Fisheries 2023a). Throughout this time period, 35 NARW deaths have been reported, as well as 22 serious injuries, and 37 sub-lethal injuries and illnesses

(NOAA Fisheries 2023a). In the period of 2016-2020, incidental fishery entanglement mortality and serious injury averaged 5.7 individuals per year, and vessel strike mortality and serious injury averaged 2.4 individuals per year (88 FR 4162). This means, with no impact from the US Wind project, expected NARW deaths already exceed the level needed to maintain NARW stock. NMFS should not be approving any offshore wind activity that may further impact the NARW. Clearly, operational noise poses a serious, and even potentially deadly threat and could result in NARW extinctions. No LOA should be issued until at least one of the planned 18 MW turbines is actually built in the ocean with sound levels measured and reported accurately. Building the project with sound measured only after project is built is unacceptable. NMFS has failed to consider the cumulative impact from the numerous LOAs issued in active NARW habitat The Harassment Permit analysis does not assess cumulative impacts on the affected marine mammals. Instead, it treats the Project as if it were to be installed and operated in a vacuum, where no other impacts exists. In reality the project is adjacent to the Skipjack 1 and 2 Projects, and the Garden State project, and not far from multiple projects off the southern New Jersey coast. All of these projects may be simultaneously be under construction, and will certainly be operational at the same time. Marine mammals avoiding the Marwin and Momentum Wind projects may simply wander into another project and across multiple shipping channels adding to stress and confusion greatly increasing the potential for vessel strikes and entanglement. See the below maps of vessel paths to the north of the Maryland project. NMFS is ignoring this issue. No project should receive a LOA until this cumulative effect is fully considered. 6 Caesar Rodney Institute Center for Energy & Environment PO Box 18 Lewes, DE 19958 WWW.CaesarRodney.org Conclusion The US Wind request for a LOA, and NMFS consultation on the request is seriously flawed and incomplete. The request should be denied. David T. Stevenson Director, Center for Energy & Environment Caesar Rodney Institute e-mail: DavidStevenson@CaesarRodney.org

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Public Comments on US Wind Application for Letter of Authorization

1 message

rosetta maguigad <rosettamaguigad@gmail.com> Wed, May 31, 2023 at 8:53 PM
To: "itp.taylor@noaa.gov" <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

To:
Jolie Harrison
Chief Permits & Conservation Division
Office of Protective Resources, NMFS
1315 East-WestHwy
Silver Spring MD 20910

The US Wind application for Letter of Authorization under the Marine Mammal Protection Act for Maryland Offshore Wind Project in Document 2023-09194 should be denied due to the adverse impact to wildlife in the area.

Respectfully,
Rosetta Maguigad
104 Annapolis House Road
Bethany Beach DE 19930

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

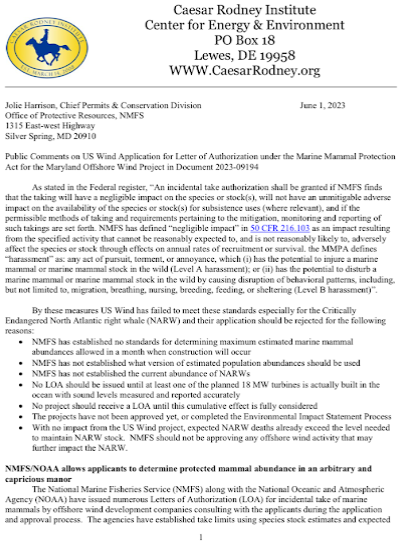
Wind Farms off the Delaware Coast

1 message

The Reckers <jdrecko@comcast.net> Wed, May 31, 2023 at 10:54 AM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov
Cc: "DavidStevenson@caesarrodney.org" <DavidStevenson@caesarrodney.org>

I support the views expressed in the attached link.

Thank you.
Jeffrey Recker
Owner: 910 Annapolis House, Bethany Beach DE., 19930



Caesar Rodney Institute
Center for Energy & Environment
PO Box 18
Lewes, DE 19958
WWW.CaesarRodney.org

Jolie Harrison, Chief Permits & Conservation Division
Office of Protective Resources, NMFS
1315 East-west Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

June 1, 2023

Public Comments on US Wind Application for Letter of Authorization under the Marine Mammal Protection Act for the Maryland Offshore Wind Project in Document 2023-09194

As stated in the Federal register, "An incidental take authorization shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth. NMFS has defined "negligible impact" in 50 CFR 216.103 as an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock though effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival. the MMPA defines "harassment" as: any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance, which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (Level A harassment); or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (Level B harassment)".

By these measures US Wind has failed to meet these standards especially for the Critically Endangered North Atlantic right whale (NARW) and their application should be rejected for the following reasons:

- NMFS has established no standards for determining maximum estimated marine mammal abundances allowed in a month when construction will occur
- NMFS has not established what version of estimated population abundances should be used
- NMFS has not established the current abundance of NARWs
- No LOA should be issued until at least one of the planned 18 MW turbines is actually built in the ocean with sound levels measured and reported accurately
- No project should receive a LOA until this cumulative effect is fully considered
- The projects have not been approved yet, or completed the Environmental Impact Statement Process
- With no impact from the US Wind project, expected NARW deaths already exceed the level needed to maintain NARW stock. NMFS should not be approving any offshore wind activity that may further impact the NARW.

NMFS/NOAA allows applicants to determine protected mammal abundance in an arbitrary and capricious manor

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) along with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) have issued numerous Letters of Authorization (LOA) for incidental take of marine mammals by offshore wind development companies consulting with the applicants during the application and approval process. The agencies have established take limits using species stock estimates and expected

1

Public_Comments_on_US_Wind_application_for_approval_for_incidental_take
PDF Document · 695 KB

M. Jolie Harrison
Permits and Conservation Division
Office of Protected Resources
NMFS

re:Public Comment for US Wind IHA permit application (RTID 0648-XC748)

The following statements include comments and concerns for US Wind's present and any future application for any Incidental Take of Marine Mammals within the BOEM lease area OCS-A 0490 off the coast of Maryland.

1. There is no draft Programable Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the US Wind project, which would define the scope of the proposed project for regulatory agencies, appointed and elected officials and the general public in Delaware. This untimely application by US Wind for the incidental take of marine mammals during construction, would be subject to extensive jurisprudence. This procedurally flawed due process presently, would be of interest to stakeholders with legal standing in the matter, in addition to state and federal courts which mandate protection of endangered species in respective jurisdictions.

Delaware is a recipient of Section 6 monies under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) which provides a mechanism for cooperation between NOAA Fisheries and States in the conservation of threatened, endangered, and candidate species. Non-compliance of ESA in state waters, could impact future funding, due to coastal industrial development in wind and nearshore areas.

Under section 6, NOAA Fisheries is authorized to enter into agreements with any State that establishes and maintains an "adequate and active" program for the conservation of endangered and threatened species.

Official Notice of Availability of a Draft EIS published in the Federal Register (FR) beginning both the public comment period and concurrent CAA Section 309 Review (Agency Action)	08/04/2023	09/01/2023

2. The project as designed, including the four OSSs and transmission cables making landfall in Delaware violates the autonomy of the state to manage and conserve the coastal resources as dictated by the regulatory scope of DE Administrative Codes and Coastal Zone Act (CZMA). Federal Consistency as defined in state law:

2.1.1 The Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, (CZMA; 16 USC §§1451 1465) provides that each federal agency conducting or supporting activities, whether within or outside the coastal zone, affecting any land or water use or natural resource of the coastal zone, must do so in a manner which is, to the maximum extent practicable, consistent with Delaware's Coastal Management Program (DCMP).

2.1.2 In addition, federal permits and licenses, outer continental shelf (OCS) plans, and grants-in-aid which may affect Delaware's coastal zone management area (CZMA) must be consistent with the DCMP. The federal consistency provisions are intended to provide a means for improved federal-local coordination regarding important federal actions which could affect the coastal resources of Delaware.

3. Inclusive also is federal funding under the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) which since 1962, has funded Delaware state parks for the purpose of land acquisition and public recreational values. *The WTGs, OSSs, Met Tower, and associated inter-array cables would be located within federal waters. The offshore export cables would be installed within both federal and Delaware state waters. The Lease area is approximately 80,000 acres and is located approximately 18.5 km (11.5 miles) off the coast of Maryland (Figure 1-1). Up to four offshore export cables would connect the OSSs to the onshore export cables via horizontal directional drilling (HDD) at two potential sights locations.Up to four offshore export cables would connect the OSSs to the onshore export cables via horizontal directional drilling (HDD) at two potential offshore export cable landfall locations at 3R's Beach or Tower Road on the coast of Delaware in Delaware Seashore State Park.*

Delaware's regulatory agency for compliance with Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. Sections 1531-1544), Division of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) would be required under state's applicable CZMA regulations to promulgate a decision with a Secretary's Order for non-conforming use of public lands.

4. Increased vessel traffic and loss of habitat with construction noise and disturbance. As cited in the application, *Increased vessel traffic during construction and operations of the Project could increase vessel sound underwater and marine mammal behavioral responses could result in the Project area. Marine mammals have been known to alter their foraging methods due to vessel noise while actively foraging (Blair et al. 2016) Increased in vessel traffic during Project construction, operations, and maintenance has the potential to seriously injure or kill marine mammals from vessel strikes. Vessel strikes, in addition to entanglement with commercial fishing gear, are a leading cause of marine mammal mortality,*

particularly NARW. For this reason NOAA should approve the proposed limits to boat speed, regardless. *NOAA Fisheries is currently proposing changes to vessel speed regulations to reduce the risk of mortality or serious injury to NARW due to vessels strikes. The proposed rule would replace SMAs with expanded Seasonal Speed Zones (SSZs), approximately doubling the coastal area under speed restriction (87 FR 46921). Unlike current SMAs, speed regulations (limiting operating speed to 10 knots or less) would apply to most vessels greater than 10.7 m (35 ft) in length within active SSZs (NOAA Fisheries 2022e). This proposed rule would also allow for the establishment of discrete and temporally limited mandatory Dynamic Speed Zones (DMZs) to protect NARW outside of active SSZs (NOAA Fisheries 2022e*).

5. Operational noise of large turbines is never defined in the application, numerically. Citing a factual study in the references of the application, Stöber, Uwe, and Frank Thomsen. 2021. "How could operational underwater sound from future offshore wind turbines impact marine life?" *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America.* They concluded that for a nominal power of **10 MW, the trends in broadband SPLs and turbine-specific spectral band SPLs yielded source levels of 170 and 177 dB re 1 µPa m, respectively. The shift from using gear boxes to direct drive technology is expected to reduce the sound level by 10 dB. Using the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration criterion for behavioral disruption for continuous noise (i.e., level B), a single 10 MW direct drive turbine is expected to cause behavioral response in marine mammals up to 1.4 km distance from the turbine, compared to 6.3 km for a turbine with gear box.**

Section 10.3 of US WInd's application falsely summarized no environmental impacts.

Habitat alteration due to the presence of the submarine cables, WTGs, OSSs and the Met Tower foundations are not expected to impact marine mammal populations. The addition of man-made structures to the marine habitat within the Project area would not physically restrict marine mammal movement and would not present a barrier for marine mammal migration. The Ocean Wind Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) assessed the presence of structures and their potential impact on marine mammals. This analysis concluded that the largest individuals of the four largest whale species (NARW, fin whale, sei whale, and sperm whale) would fit lengthwise between two foundations spaced 1 NM (1.9 km) apart 100 times over (BOEM 2022), and, therefore, WTG and OSS foundations would not act as a physical barrier to the movement of marine mammals. Secondary effects of physical habitat alteration and Project operation may facilitate increased abundance of some marine mammal species due to increased prey densities due to artificial reef effects (see Section 9.0).

The physical barriers of the monopolies, would be of concern to whales and dolphin species which are monocular in vision. The discontinuity and fragmentation of the ocean's biophony as cited by Stöber et al. concerns the biometric scale of hearing and communication for all ocean life and the transitional risk that critically endangered

species and marine mammals protected under the federal laws will endure. The impacts of ultrasonic and infrasonic noise generation of ocean-based wind turbines, specifically in this lease area are not factually verifiable, as their is no actual operational data to support any conclusions by US Wind. The hypotheses that artificial reefs (may) increased abundance of (some) marine species is a public relations falsehood at best.

In conclusion, environmental impacts of offshore wind areas are greater than any benefit from an intermittent and expensive industrial energy source. All of these impacts are cumulative, which will additionally endanger the future health of the ocean ecosystem. These following concerns are cited from the Marine Mammal Commission.

Vessel Strike Risk: Vessel traffic in wind energy areas or displacement from preferred habitat could put marine mammals at a higher risk of vessel strike.

Displacement: Increased sound and vessel traffic and new structures in wind energy areas could cause animals to avoid preferred habitat.

Changes in Distribution: Continued displacement of marine mammals away from wind energy areas could result in long-term changes to species' distributions.

Prey Availability: Habitat alterations could affect prey species distribution, density, patch structure, and availability to marine mammals.

Behavioral/Physiological Changes: Marine mammal call rates and intensities, foraging ecology, respiration and movement patterns, and rates of physiological stress could be impacted.

Ecosystem Alteration: The installation of new offshore structures could affect local marine ecosystems.

Submitted,

Gregg W. Rosner

Fenwick Island, DE

May 31, 2023

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

No Wind Farm - Sea Colony

1 message

Marge Rothenberg <picrssh4sun@gmail.com> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 1:23 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

Dear NOAA,

Wind Farms are dangerous to Marine Mammals and Humans!

I vote no Wind Farms at Sea Colony or in Bethany Beach Delaware.

Thank you for your consideration of this,

With gratitude,

Margaret Rothenberg
3106 Round Robin Way
Sea Colony, Bethany Beach DE

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

deny US wind applications

1 message

susan nolan <suenolan2004@yahoo.com> Sun, May 28, 2023 at 11:08 AM
To: itp.taylor@noaa.gov

Jolie Harrison
I am asking, no pleading with you to deny US Wind application seeking authorization to incidentally take marine mammals during the development of wind projects in Delaware and Maryland.
I understand that during ship transport and off shore building it is now “acceptable “ for the taking of a certain amount of marine mammals. However, it is not acceptable, in my opinion, to take marine mammals for construction of a project that is yet to be determined a better solution for clean energy. I am a proponent of clean energy but not at the expense of our ocean wildlife, which is already so precious.
Thank you for your time
Susan Nolan

Sent from my iPhone

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Wind farm on the coast of Delaware

1 message

P Schratz <pschratz@gmail.com> Mon, May 29, 2023 at 7:22 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

I am an owner at Sea Colony, and I support the development of wind farms off of the coast of Delaware.

Paul Schratz
53071 Lakeshore Court
Bethany Beach, DE 19930
410-562-3495

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Comments on US Wind Application for Letter of Authorization under the MMPA in Doc 2023-09194

1 message

Edward Sexauer <sexaueredward@gmail.com> Wed, May 31, 2023 at 8:50 AM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

I urge you to carefully review the comments submitted by the Center for Energy and Environment, Caesar Rodney Institute. These comments are significant and lay out important environmental impacts affecting marine life, especially, but not limited to, the critically endangered North Atlantic Right Whale. These comments, among other things, highlight and demonstrate the failure of US Wind to meet standards set out in 50 CFR 216.103 for protection of marine life, and the lack of approval of the incomplete Environmental Impact Statement Process.

The US Wind request for a Letter of Authorization, and NMFS consultation on the request is seriously flawed and incomplete, and the request should be denied.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Edward Sexauer
Concerned citizen

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Commercial Wind Turbines Costal Ocean City Maryland

1 message

Ron Sizemore <ronniesmotors1127@gmail.com> Thu, Jun 1, 2023 at 12:09 PM
To: ITP.taylor@noaa.gov
Cc: Kim Sizemore <ksizemore020@gmail.com>

Chief, Permits and Conservation Division
Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910
CC Email: ITP.taylor@noaa.gov

June 1,2023

For such a large project. I request an extension for public comment on US Wind industrialization of commercial wind turbines off the coast of Ocean City, Maryland. Notice made May 2, 2023, with deadline June 1, 2023. Request an extension to the response time for the public comments.

Incidental Take Authorization (Killing and harassment) for marine mammals is contrary to Federal Law which Congress passed to protect Atlantic Coast ecosystem. Since December 2022 thirty-six whales have washed up in record numbers and dolphins. Suspected low frequency seismic testing (HRG Survey Activity) by the wind industry is disrupting and harassing mammals. I am requesting a moratorium be instituted. My understanding is the GAO is completing a study regarding the killings that have recently taken place.

NOAA claims no definitive data yet has not offered to study the most recent data of killing marine mammals contrary to Federal Laws enacted by Congress. This process alone should require a moratorium until those GAO finds are reported to the public. NOAA should be exercising due diligence to study the recent deaths before permitting.

Thank you,

Ron & Kim Sizemore
(Ronald L Sizemore
6201 Atlantic Avenue
Ocean City Maryland

Sent from my iPhone

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Wind farm

1 message

Paige Smith <sportspaiges@gmail.com> Mon, May 29, 2023 at 6:20 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

No wind farms!
Certainly not visible from sea colony!
They are stupid and made in other counties and are not beneficial to wildlife and marine life.

Paige Smith
409 Brandywine House
Bethany Beach De 19930

--
Paige Smith

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Wind Farm Take

1 message

jsockel@comcast.net <jsockel@comcast.net> Wed, May 31, 2023 at 10:34 AM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

I'll sign on to your letter to Jolie Harrison.

Jan Sockel

jsockel@comcast.net

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

No wind farms

1 message

Linda <lindanardellsteele@gmail.com> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 2:54 AM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

It is killing narine life !

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Maryland Offshore Wind Project -- Document 2023-09194

1 message

Stek, Jon <jon_stek@merck.com> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 11:49 AM
To: "ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov" <ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov>

Dear Ms. Harrison,

I cannot express how strongly I support the attached letter from the Caesar Rodney Institute.

Aside from permanently destroying the DE and MD coastal view, the negative impact on marine ecosystem/life from these misguided wind 'farms' is far being fully understood. We have all heard the stories of marine mammals washing ashore in areas already impacted by the 'farms'. Some claim it is not the farms, but the truth is that we simply do not have an adequate amount of research/data to prove that the 'farms' are not harming already endangered species of marine mammals through Level A & B Harassment (as defined in 50 CFR 210.103).

And now we are reading that there is a request to permit KILL amounts of endangered marine mammals while building these 'farms'. This is simply unconscionable and should be fully denied.

In short, the ends do NOT justify Therefore, I urge you and anyone with influence on these 'farms' to deny this "seriously flawed and incomplete" request.

Regards,

Jon Stek (DE homeowner)

Wind Farm Letter.pdf
766K

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Offshore wind farm

1 message

marie-elise tanabe <marieeliset@yahoo.com> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 10:40 AM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

The US Wind request for a LOA should be denied because the NMFS consultation on the request is seriously flawed.

Sincerely,
M. Tanabe

Sent from my iPhone

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Public Comments on US Wind Application for Letter of Authorization under the Marine Mammal Protection Act for the Maryland Offshore Wind Project in Document 2023-09194

1 message

ROBERT THOMAS <bluefishbob@aol.com> Wed, May 31, 2023 at 12:52 PM
To: "DavidStevenson@caesarrodney.org" <DavidStevenson@caesarrodney.org>
Cc: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov, "bluefishbob@aol.com" <bluefishbob@aol.com>, Mari at Home Thomas <mailformarit@aol.com>

Dear Sir/Ma'am—

I am writing to document my strong opposition to the proposed Maryland Offshore Wind Project in Document 2023-09194. This project harms my financial and personal interests as seeing the wind turbines from my 8th floor property in Bethany Beach ruins the view, negatively impacts my ability to rent the property and/or charge higher rents. If negatively impacts my ability to enjoy my property, and ultimately will impact the properties value…I have been harmed! I am also a bird watcher and sportsman. The DE cost is a migration corridor for numerous sea birds that will have to transit this area; I watch them every spring and fall. They do not fly over land and are not year-around DE species. They will suffer from the project as they have no natural defenses from fast spinning turbine blades; when they are killed they drop into the ocean and no one notices. We all own those birds, as no one should have the right to kill them for financial gain. Most days you can't even see the birds from the beach, but with a telescope I can see dozens flying and feeding in the exact area the project is planned for. In other area where projects have started we are now seeing dead whales and negative impacts to other wildlife. The blinking red lights on these structures will destroy the view of the ocean even at night. Although well-intentioned this project is simply wrong and severely impacts me, the wildlife and everyone vacationing in DE. The argument that the electricity will be used in DE is simply a red herring, as electricity is a fungible commodity and can be used anywhere. I should not have to suffer a financial loss due to the politically motivated decisions of others that simply don't care to recognize the impact on me and my family or the wildlife.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Thomas
240-893-3043
801 Georgetowne House Road
Bethany Beach, DE 19930
B;uefishbob@aol.com

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Do Not grant Letter of Authorization to US Wind

1 message

Glen Urquhart <gu2@me.com> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 4:15 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

Public Comments on US Wind Application for Letter of Authorization under the Marine Mammal Protection Act for the Maryland Offshore Wind Project in Document 2023-09194

As stated in the Federal register, “An incidental take authorization shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth. NMFS has defined “negligible impact” in 50 CFR 216.103 as an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival. the MMPA defines “harassment” as: any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance, which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (Level A harassment); or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (Level B harassment)”.
By these measures US Wind has failed to meet these standards especially for the Critically Endangered North Atlantic right whale (NARW) and their application should be rejected for the following reasons:

- NMFS has established no standards for determining maximum estimated marine mammal abundances allowed in a month when construction will occur
- NMFS has not established what version of estimated population abundances should be used
- NMFS has not established the current abundance of NARWs
- No LOA should be issued until at least one of the planned 18 MW turbines is actually built in the ocean with sound levels measured and reported accurately
- No project should receive a LOA until this cumulative effect is fully considered
- The projects have not been approved yet, or completed the Environmental Impact Statement Process
- With no impact from the US Wind project, expected NARW deaths already exceed the level needed to maintain NARW stock. NMFS should not be approving any offshore wind activity that may further impact the NARW.

NMFS/NOAA allows applicants to determine protected mammal abundance in an arbitrary and capricious manor

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) along with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) have issued numerous Letters of Authorization (LOA) for incidental take of marine mammals by offshore wind development companies consulting with the applicants during the application and approval process.

Glen Urquhart M:302-245-2760
Urquhart & Company gu2@me.com

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Opposition to US Wind Application

1 message

Franklin Vargo <vargo.frank@gmail.com> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 2:01 PM
To: ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov

I believe that the US Wind application (Document 2023-09194) for a letter of authorization under the Marine Mammal Act is seriously flawed, and the request should be denied.

Franklin Vargo
603 Island House
Sea Colony
Bethany Beach DE 19930

Vargo.frank@ Gmail.com

Sent from my iPad

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Fw: Proposed wind farm

1 message

R Virostek <rvirostek@verizon.net> Wed, May 31, 2023 at 3:26 PM
To: "ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov" <ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov>

To Whom it may Concern,
As noted below, I *am **absolutely and totally opposed** to any Wind Farm off the Delaware Coast. Why, you ask?* **My personal experience is that the technology is extremely expensive, inefficient and ineffective, regardless of what the marketing people say; they don't understand the technology, nor do they want to!** The comments and rational stated by Mr. David Stevenson of the Caesar Rodney Institue are the proverbial tip of the iceberg for **rejecting any efforts/project/program for going ahead with the proposed Wind Farm.** BEWARE!
Ronald Virostek

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Matt Shaffer <matt.shaffer@vacasa.com>
To: R Virostek <rvirostek@verizon.net>
Cc: helpme@seacolony.com <helpme@seacolony.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 08:41:15 AM EDT
Subject: Re: Proposed wind farm

Hi there,

If you'd like to sign on to the comments, please reach out to David Stevenson at the Caesar Rodney Institute, per below. Alternatively you may use his comments (linked in the original email we sent out) to submit your own to ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov.

David T. Stevenson
Director, Center for Energy & Environment
Caesar Rodney Institute
DavidStevenson@CaesarRodney.org

Thanks,

Matt Shaffer

Marketing & Communications Manager | Sea Colony

On Tue, May 30, 2023 at 4:55 PM R Virostek <rvirostek@verizon.net> wrote:

> Add my name in opposition to a Wind Farm off the coast of Bethany Beach, Sea Colony thru Fenwick Island, Delaware.
> Ronald Virostek

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

signing on public comments

1 message

White, Kelly A. <kelly_white@merck.com> Tue, May 30, 2023 at 7:59 AM
To: "ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov" <ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov>

Public

Signing on to David T. Stevenson, Director, Center for Energy & Environment, Caesar Rodney Institute in Lewes, DE. To indicate my alignment to not have visible wind farms as well as your viewpoint on taking mammals in the process.

Kelly White MSN, RN

Senior Director

Global Trial Optimization Oncology

Merck & Co., Inc

kelly.white@merck.com

mobile 215.872.0457

Public_Comments_on_US_Wind_application_for_approval_for_incidental_take.pdf
638K

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Windmills of the Delaware Coast

1 message

Chris Yianilos <chrisyianilos@hotmail.com> Mon, May 29, 2023 at 5:07 PM
To: "ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov" <ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov>

I am writing to express my opposition to windfarms being visible from the Delaware and Maryland beaches. While I support clean energy, beaches are special places and should not be made to look industrialized. There simply must be better ways to develop clean or cleaner energy sources while not destroying the beauty of natural habitat.

Thank you,
Chris

ITP Taylor - NOAA Service Account <itp.taylor@noaa.gov>

Offshore wind vanes

1 message

bzoon@comcast.net <bzoon@comcast.net> Mon, May 29, 2023 at 8:26 PM
To: "ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov" <ITP.Taylor@noaa.gov>

I have no objections to offshore wind vanes and, in fact, support this to increase our electrical grid with clean energy. It doesn't matter if we can see them as far as I am concerned as long as they supply us with the electricity we need at a reasonable cost.

Bob Zoon